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Transcript of CPSU Discussion on KAL-007 Published

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on 25 August carries the "working transcript" of the 2 September 1983 CPSU Central Committee Politburo session, chaired by K.U. Chernenko. Participants, including M.S. Gorbachev, V.V. Grishin, and A.A. Gromyko, discussed the downing of the Korean airliner KAL-007 and determined that "we cannot allow foreign planes to overfly our territory freely."

CIS Commander in Chief on Withdrawal From Baltics

Radio Rossii carries an "exclusive interview" with CIS Commander in Chief Shaposhnikov about the withdrawal of former USSR armed forces from the independent republics' territory. Shaposhnikov noted his support for the need to withdraw Russian troops from the Baltics, but that "any hastiness in this matter may lead to heaps of unwanted consequences." He said that the withdrawal of troops should be done in stages: "We cannot withdraw them into an empty field or a forest."

Kazakhstan Denies Selling Nuclear Bombs to Iran

Russian TV reports that the Kazakh Defense Minister Nurmagambetov denied reports that Kazakhstan sold three nuclear bombs to Iran. Nurmagambetov stated: "We declare that there are no nuclear weapons on the territory of Kazakhstan. The nuclear weapons were withdrawn back in November 1991. The logical conclusion to be drawn is: How can it sell what does not exist?"

Russian Commission To Study North Caucasus Issues

ITAR-TASS reports the establishment of the Russian Security Council's North Caucasus Commission, "the first commission set up in keeping with the law on the security of the Russian Federation." According to Nikolay Fedorov, deputy chairman of the commission and Russian justice minister, it was established as a result of "numerous appeals by leaders of practically all the peoples of the Northern Caucasus, addressed to the Russian leadership and stressing the need of a high-status commission, which would have direct access to the president."

Meanwhile the Russian Procurator's Office on 27 August instituted "criminal proceedings concerning the calls by the Confederation of Caucasian Highland Peoples for fanning up ethnic strife, committing terrorist and saboteur acts and capturing hostages."

Moscow Communist Rally Assails Government

ITAR-TASS reports that several thousand communists gathered near Moscow's Gorkiy Park on 26 August, a number "well below the 50,000 figure anticipated by the organizers." As they did "several years ago, communists called for the resignation of President Boris Yeltsin and his 'provisional occupational government' and the restoration of the country within old Soviet borders." Supporters "unanimously" passed a resolution, "which denounced the country's leadership."

Ukrainian President, Authorities Threaten Expulsion

Moscow ITAR-TASS reports that according to a statement issued by the Ukrainian National Information Agency on the instructions of Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, the "Ukrainian authorities have threatened to expel from the republic, citizens of any country guilty of attempting to split the people, to sow inter-ethnic or social enmity." This statement responds to an incident at the World Forum of Ukrainians in Kiev, at which "certain foreign participants" made "direct calls for opposition to the actions of the government and the Supreme Soviet and the president's policy."

Treatment of Ukrainians in Bosnia Protested

INTERFAX reports that Viktor Batyuk, the Ukrainian ambassador to the United Nations, addressed the General Assembly about the Ukrainian minority residing in "the areas near Prnjavor (Bosnia), Vukovar (Croatia), Miklusevci and Petrovci (Voyvodina) which are under Serbian control." The ambassador stated that the Ukrainians there are subject to body searches and intimidation and "are made to leave their homes and participate in the fighting."

Problems of Combating Stealth Weapons Examined

PM2608102392 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Aug 92 p 2

[Article by Doctor of Military Sciences Professor Colonel Yuriy Omelchenko under the "View of a Problem" rubric: "How To Counter Stealth Weapons Systems"]

[Text] KRASNAYA ZVEZDA readers have already had a chance to familiarize themselves with stealth technology—one of the most advanced technologies used in developing modern military aircraft. This technology, or elements of it, are used to manufacture tactical fighters, strategic bombers, cruise missiles, and remotely piloted vehicles. There are relatively few such systems in terms of numbers, but the amount of missions which they can undertake is very high.

Here is quite a typical example. During the multinational forces' war against Iraq in the winter of 1991, F-117-A aircraft, which flew just 2.5-3 percent of the total number of missions, hit up to 43 percent of all priority targets.

Experience shows that the most effective weapon may always appear in the most diverse regions when relations deteriorate, and find itself being used in conflict. That is why air defense systems must undoubtedly be prepared to counter stealth technology. The domestic and foreign press has already noted that our air defense systems include certain kinds of radar stations capable of detecting low-signature stealth-technology aircraft. They also have weapons capable of destroying such aircraft. But any reader—even if uninitiated—is entitled to ask the question: How many of these systems would we need to close off all possible avenues of operation for stealth weapons systems? And what would it cost?

The concept of combating stealth technology, it seems to me, should be one of the approaches employed when determining the role and capabilities of rapid deployment forces. These, as is well known, should be able to operate in any direction—wherever an external threat to state security arises. The situation in political crisis areas shows that the emergence of an external threat is linked to the deployment of powerful force groupings in a certain region.

As for air defense, it should be able to concentrate in a conflict zone forces and assets whose capabilities allow them to effectively counter the use of stealth technology. All the more so as, given well-organized intelligence, the number of stealth assets in the force grouping can be determined when that force grouping is being formed up. Obviously, such air defense systems should be highly mobile and centrally controlled. It then becomes possible to focus the necessary efforts in various areas.

It should thus be a question of a mobile air defense system, which, unlike static defense, is typified by the fact that **its main forces are referenced not to the installations being defended but to the concentrated grouping of the other side's forces.**

Modern S-300 and Buk complexes have the capability to effectively combat stealth technology, and can be moved rapidly from one area to another. Moreover, the S-300 surface-to-air missile system can be moved rapidly to an assigned area not only in the run-up to hostilities, but even during them, in the window between massive air strikes.

The requirement to create a mobile defense system to combat stealth technology is also met by air defense aviation, which is armed with MiG-31 and Su-27 fighters. In terms of their capabilities these aircraft clearly go beyond the bounds of low-maneuverability, static air defense and, in the event of being permanently assigned to the defense of a specific installation or group of installations, their combat potential is by no means fully exploited. The greatest impact could be achieved by using these state-of-the-art fighters in the air defense system in the interests of an entire range of missions arising over a vast region. That includes combating stealth weapons systems.

A necessary condition for successfully combating stealth weapons systems is a centralized reconnaissance system which can detect and constantly monitor air, naval, and ground force groupings.

Decisionmaking by air defense forces and systems over such a wide area in potential threat environments is also linked with the need for unified command and control organs having the relevant rights and the capability to make and implement crucial decisions.

One last point. The coalition nature of the formation of the U.S. and Canadian air and space defense system and the European NATO countries' air defense system is common knowledge. The fact that several states have unified air defense (air and space defense) systems in no way affects their sovereignty and independence. The key point is simply the military and economic expediency of precisely this kind of solution to a defense problem—protection against attack from the air and from space. This is something that CIS political leaders, parliaments, and military departments should think about.

Future of Russia's Enriched Uranium Viewed

PM2508154492 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Aug 92 p 3

[Article by Manki Ponomarev: "Large-Scale Maneuvers Over Russian Uranium"]

[Text] **"Red Mercury," Plutonium in Screws, and Other Horrors**

Sensational reports about radioactive copper scrap discovered in the port of Stockholm in a container hailing from Estonia have appeared in the press of a number of countries recently. The cacophony of conjecture and tracking down of culprits usual in such cases broke out. Russian submarines again loomed on the horizon. That at least is the opinion of the Swedish television program Rapport, which claims that parts of the reactor of an atomic submarine belonging to Russia were found in the container.

The news of the discovery in the port of Stockholm is one of many similar stories circulating in the press. Accounts, that is, of "red mercury," which does not actually exist,

from which the perfidious Russians make their atomic bombs; while others, who are even more perfidious, steal it to sell to others who want to acquire their own nuclear weapons. You also get "reliable information" published about the sale via Norway or Poland of Russian heavy water, which is used in the production of such nuclear weapons. And a furor is flaring up in Vienna over smuggled plutonium, which is—once again—Russian, of course.

Incidentally, enumerating such cases does not make them any more convincing. On the contrary, comparison of them enables you to draw the conclusion that the speculation about the "sale of radioactive material from the CIS" is deliberate in nature. You can judge their "reliability," for example, by the fuss created in Vienna over the smuggled "plutonium from the East." First there was talk simply of a "large consignment." Then it was screws with plutonium heads. What is all this about, then? One such screw was delivered to the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] laboratory in Seibersdorf. Traces of plutonium were indeed found, but they were so infinitesimally small—0.0003 of a gram—that it is virtually impossible, experts conclude, to extract it for further use in the creation of nuclear weapons.

So what actually is going on, then? Many people are inclined to think that a major international group is operating, a group that is not only dealing in illegally obtained radioactive substances but is also engaged in speculation in this sphere, receiving a fabulous income from selling... myths.

The event in Stockholm confirms that this is so. When checked out, the scrap detained in the port did indeed prove to contain a small quantity of radioactive cobalt-60. But it is noteworthy that Estonia, from where the ill-starred copper came, has reached sixth (?) world ranking for copper exports while having no deposits of its own. Unscrupulous dealers are buying the metal somewhere in the CIS and selling it for hard currency. It cannot be ruled out that they have managed to get their hands on copper that has been in contact with a nuclear reactor. And they have put it up for sale.

Fissile Material Filling the Market

So the actions of mafia structures could be a source of the speculative reports about radioactive substances "from Russia." But that does not explain why such a fuss is being created over such reports, the majority of which, incidentally, are fictitious or hugely exaggerated. The reasons here are clearly far more serious.

The clearer the prospects for real nuclear disarmament become, the more acute becomes the question of what to do with the fissile material, particularly the highly enriched (weapons-grade) uranium and plutonium that is left. The United States has already abandoned the production of both—more than enough having been stockpiled. We, too, are discontinuing the production of nuclear explosives. The reactor at the Tomsk-7 plant, for example, which produced plutonium, has just been shut down.

But as U.S. and Russian nuclear arms are scrapped even more fissile material will become available. After all, 13,500-14,000 tactical nuclear weapons are to be destroyed. And around 5,000 strategic nuclear weapons are to be decommissioned under the START Treaty. Plus the further, even bigger cut based on the framework accord reached by the U.S. and Russian presidents in June. According to some figures, it can be expected that approximately 100 tonnes of plutonium and 500 tonnes of uranium extracted from the scrapped warheads will become available on each side.

Thus the question of what to do with the fissile material is becoming increasingly pressing. It is far from always possible to recover or reprocess all the material and it is difficult and dangerous to store it. It could be converted back into a nuclear explosive and fall into the wrong hands. Finally, this material is in demand on the world market.

However, before the nuclear explosive can be put onto the market, it needs reprocessing. This is a very complex technical task and its methodology is not yet altogether clear. As far as weapons-grade uranium is concerned, more than 90 percent of it consists of uranium-235 (in the natural raw material there is only 0.7 percent of this isotope). To obtain nuclear fuel for nuclear electric power stations you can in principle mix both isotopes in the appropriate proportion. By so doing you obtain roughly 27 kg of fuel from one kg of explosive.

That is difficult. But it is even worse as far as plutonium is concerned. No rational reprocessing technique for it has been found to date. Moreover, it is extremely toxic—1-2 grams of plutonium dispersed over an area of one square kilometer render it unsuitable for habitation (incidentally, in this regard the accounts of unknown persons and organizations casually trading in plutonium are very, very dubious).

However, it must not be forgotten that uranium as a fuel for nuclear electric power stations, and more than 330 of them are now operating in various countries, is in steady demand. This serves as an incentive to those who possess it to increase its sale in every way, particularly as prices remain high. In the United States, for example, it is calculated that the value of it contained in just half the American warheads comes to $6 billion. Comparable figures apply to the uranium contained in CIS nuclear arms.

Will Competitors Become Partners?

These several hundred tonnes of highly enriched Russian uranium whet the appetite, since hundreds of millions, even billions, of dollars are at stake. A great deal could be earned. But, on the other hand, the appearance of such a quantity of uranium on the market could sharply intensify competition and even destabilize the market, particularly as we could sell it far more cheaply than, say, the Americans. Our production technology is superior, our expenditure of electricity is incomparably lower, and our workers' salaries far lower, too.

A highly complicated issue arises right here. The United States has been able to limit the access of our nuclear fuel

to the market to a certain level—Russia's quota is still only 5-6 percent of total world trade to date. But it will hardly be able to hold back Russia for long. We have already announced that we are ready to sell 20-50 percent of our stocks of highly enriched uranium over 5-10 years. And the Americans are still faced here with the urgent need to modernize their enterprises producing fuel for nuclear electric power stations. While modernization is under way output will decline, and Moscow could steal a march in the market. What is to be done?

The first, simplest, and most usual method is to undermine confidence in Russia. No, official circles cannot afford to do this. For such matters there is a special kind of press which is prepared to do anything in pursuit of a sensational story. You want a cock-and-bull story about "red mercury"? No problem. Plutonium screws? Just make it as spicy and racy a tale as you can. And as for the truth, that is not our business, there are professors in universities for that. And so the myths circulate around the world.

But you won't get far on myths and fables. A far more fruitful route can be found—transforming Russia and the United States from rivals into partners. While the American plants are being modernized, they can buy uranium in Russia and then deliver it to their regular consumers. The Russian Federation has nothing to fear here: The former established ties remain intact. Only the route taken by the product will be extended. But that is of no concern to the customers. They will continue dealing with their former tried-and-tested suppliers.

True, there is one hitch. The Russian uranium is weapons-grade. It cannot be resold just like that. It first has to be put into a commercial state. Fine, let's help the Russians here, let us develop cooperation with them in the sphere of reprocessing the nuclear explosive into fuel. Cooperation sounds fine! And at the same time we will be able to see for ourselves that the warheads really are being scrapped and the depots are emptying and we will also familiarize ourselves with the advanced technology used.

Does this suit Russia? The nuclear weapons have to be either destroyed or cannibalized anyway. The uranium has to be sold—the need for hard currency is too great. So don't let us seek buyers, let the Americans take care of that.

Representatives of Allied Signal and General Atomics came to Moscow to sign a provisional agreement with the Russian Federation Atomic Energy Ministry to purchase 11 tonnes of highly enriched uranium over 11 years. It is then intended that the contract be extended. There has been no actual report of the price, but it is known that fuel for electric power stations produced from 11 tonnes of highly enriched uranium will run to at least $100 million.

And V. Mikhaylov himself, the leader of the ministry, then set off for Washington. In Washington he held talks with his counterpart, U.S. Energy Secretary James Watkins, and other officials. There was also discussion about the sale of Russian uranium extracted from dismantled nuclear weapons and about getting American companies to assist in reprocessing highly enriched uranium into fuel for nuclear electric power stations.

Only the American military apparently remain dissatisfied. The Pentagon fears, the omniscient WASHINGTON *POST* wrote, that the Russian example will force the United States to destroy its stocks of fissile material enriched to weapons-production standard. And that allegedly will seriously limit "future options for the nuclear forces."

But then, you can't please everyone.

Yugoslav Violations by Russia, Ukraine Noted

MK2608154092 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 25 Aug 92 p 2

[Fedor Mikhaylov report: "Russia and Ukraine Condemned"]

[Text] According to information received, German television journalist Christian Freder has stated that in Serbia he filmed Ukrainian and Russian ships delivering oil and oil products despite the UN-agreed bans. There has been talk for some weeks now that it is CIS countries that are breaking the embargo adopted against Serbia. Romania has repeatedly stated that CIS ships are passing along the Danube international waterway. The other day Greece specially terminated the dispatch of oil by motor vehicle transport to its own north in order to establish the probity of the initiative and put an end to the accusations against Greek dealers of delivering oil to Serbia. It now remains to wait for a public showing of the video record. Although nobody, evidently, is going to raise a furor in any case before the London conference on a Yugoslav settlement has ended.

Iraqi Ambassador Denounces U.S., UK, France

LD2608134892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1329 GMT 26 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow August 26 TASS—"Iraq remains, as before, a target of aggression by the United States and its Western allies under the anti-Iraqi coalition," Iraqi Ambassador to Russia Galeb Jassim Hussayn told a press conference here today.

"Exploiting the U.N. Security Council in conditions when there is no more influence of the former Soviet Union, the United States, Great Britain and France have pushed through several resolutions they needed, clamping down a blockade on Iraq, which has already claimed the lives of thousands of children, women and old folk," he stated.

Speaking about the restricted zone in Southern Iraq, the ambassador said that its establishment under the "unconvincing pretext" of defending the Shiite population was, in fact, spearheaded against the independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Iraq. It is a serious threat to international peace and security in the region. The Iraqi diplomat noted that the situation with Shiites differs from the way it is described by Western propaganda. "The leadership of my country," he added, "displays concern for the welfare of all its citizens, irrespective of political affiliation, nationality or faith".

Asked about the possibility of Western military actions against Iraq, the ambassador said the Iraqi people would courageously rebuff this conspiracy. He expressed the hope that all the Arab states, except "outright agents of imperialism", would oppose the aggression.

The Iraqi Embassy released a statement today, condemning the interference of the United States, Great Britain and France in the country's domestic affairs. The document contains an appeal to all the peoples of the world, urging them to "express their denunciation of the epoch of neocolonialism and domination, which Washington, London and Paris are trying to foist upon the world".

Nuclear Stations To Be Linked to Finland

LD2508202492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1634 GMT 25 Aug 92

[ECOTASS report: "Nuclear Power Stations in Russia and Lithuania To Have Direct Links to Finland"—ECOTASS headline]

[Text] [No dateline as received]—A special direct communication system will soon link the Kola, Leningrad and Ingalinskaya nuclear power stations with the nuclear safety centre in Finland.

Finnish specialists have begun work to build the system which will also include the port of Murmansk, the base of Russian nuclear-powered ships.

"The system is designed to provide operational information about the state and emergency situations at the nuclear power installations located in the border regions of Russia and Lithuania," deputy chief of the Finnish centre Hannu Koponen told ITAR-TASS. "Unfortunately, the present safety standards at the nuclear power stations operating in the former Soviet Union cannot be upgraded to the level of Western power plants. This makes us seek reliable and prompt information on all emergencies there."

The new system to be commissioned this coming autumn will make it possible to provide required information to all Nordic countries and Federal Germany.

Agreement Reached on Bering Sea Fishing

LD1608152592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1605 GMT 14 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Igor Shubin]

[Text] Moscow, Aug 14— The fifth international conference on conservation and management of marine resources in the central part of the Bering Sea, which ended today in Moscow, has achieved a real breakthrough toward a solution to a complex issue affecting the interests of many states. After three days of work, delegations from Russia, the United States, Poland, China, Japan, and the ROK adopted a joint resolution stating that the conference's participating states will halt fishing of pollock in the central part of the Bering Sea for the next two years. Kirill Gevorgyan, deputy director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's legal department and chairman of the conference, told ITAR-TASS that the measure is essential because Bering littoral states and others with an interest are concerned at the noticeable decline in fish catches in the region. In 1989 the total take was 1.4 million tonnes, while the figure for the first half of this year came to a mere 11,000 tonnes. The conference's next gathering is scheduled for January next year, in Washington.

1983 Politburo Session on KAL-007 Incident

PM2508143092 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 25 Aug 92 p 4

["Working transcript" of 2 September 1983 CPSU Central Committee Politburo session, under the rubric "Secrets of the Politburo": "'We Cannot Allow Foreign Planes To Overfly Our Territory Freely': This Was Stated at the CPSU Central Committee Politburo Session After the South Korean Passenger Airliner Was Shot Down by a Soviet Missile"—"top secret" designations as published in open source]

[Text] CPSU Central Committee Politburo Session

2 September 1983

Top Secret

Sole copy

(Working transcript)

In the chair: Comrade K.U. Chernenko

Present: Comrades M.S. Gorbachev, V.V. Grishin, A.A. Gromyko, G.V. Romanov, N.A. Tikhonov, D.F. Ustinov, V.I. Vorotnikov, P.N. Demichev, V.I. Dolgikh, V.V. Kuznetsov, M.S. Solomentsev, M.V. Zimyanin, I.V. Kapitonov, N.I. Ryzhkov.

Item 1. On the violation of USSR airspace by a South Korean aircraft 31 August 1983.

Chernenko: The measures associated with the incident of the South Korean plane were already discussed by Politburo members yesterday, on an operational basis. As you know, an announcement was published on this matter. You have received more detailed materials, and Yuriy Vladimirovich [Andropov] has expressed a desire for consultations on this complex question at a Politburo session.

The fact is that the American press, and the imperialist press in general, has launched a wide anti-Soviet campaign in connection with this incident. We need a thorough exchange of opinions. The important thing is that the first step has already been taken—an announcement has appeared in our press. Now we must determine our position, map out the necessary steps in the situation that has arisen, and discuss our stance amid the wild orgy of American propaganda that has been launched.

One thing is clear, that we cannot allow foreign planes to overfly our territory freely. No self-respecting state can allow that. But we must define clearly our position and the prospects for further actions.

Gromyko: In the United States, Reagan was quick to speak out on the subject of the incident of the South Korean plane. As usual, his speech was blatantly anti-Soviet and contained a call to "rally the entire international community" against the Soviet Union. The United States is demanding the immediate convocation of the UN Security Council on this question. The Security Council has not yet been convinced, but it will meet, of course, and resolutions very hostile to us will be discussed there. Clearly we will have to use our veto.

Maybe the Americans will go so far as to curtail the grain agreement they signed with us, try to step up certain economic sanctions, and in general do everything possible to whip up international tension and anti-Soviet hysteria.

Among the passengers who died on the plane there were Americans, including Congressman McDonald, Canadians, Australians, Japanese, and Koreans. It was a civilian airliner. The Japanese have stated that they have recordings of our airmen's conversations with the ground services during the period of the shooting down of the South Korean plane. So imperialist propaganda will try to portray our moves as a deliberate attack on a peaceful plane and a violation of all conventions. Various provocations against our own Aeroflot are very possible. Moves aimed at wrecking the Madrid [CSCE] conference are also possible. That is not, of course, an exhaustive list of the steps our adversary could take. We must define our position and first and foremost state firmly that we acted lawfully, that shots were fired. In this connection we should draw up a weighty representation to the U.S. Government, a resolute protest against Reagan's insinuations.

Ustinov: Only one thing is clear to me, that the Americans will try to take advantage of this affair to divert the world public's attention from the major peace initiatives put forward by the Soviet Union and to undermine our peaceful acts.

I can assure the Politburo that our airmen acted in full accordance with the requirements of military duty, and everything that is set forth in the memorandum that has been submitted is completely true. Our actions were absolutely correct, since a U.S.-made South Korean plane had penetrated 500 km into our territory. It would be extremely difficult to distinguish this plane from a reconnaissance plane by its outline [po konturam]. Soviet military airmen are forbidden to fire on passenger aircraft. But in this situation their actions were entirely justified, because, in accordance with international rules, the aircraft was repeatedly instructed to land at one of our airfields.

Gorbachev: The plane was over our territory for a long time.

If it had strayed off course, the Americans could have informed us, but they did not do so.

Ustinov: Our airmen gave them numerous warnings, over Kamchatka and over Sakhalin. The plane was traveling without warning lights. There was no light showing through the plane's windows. Warning shots were fired with tracer shells, as is stipulated in international rules. Then our pilot reported to the ground that it was a combat plane and should be shot down.

My opinion is that in this situation we must show firmness and remain cool. And maybe gradually issue the necessary information through our press. But we should not flinch. If

we flinch, it gives all kinds of people the opportunity to overfly our territory. I wish to report that in the region of our Pacific borders there have been 12 violations of this kind recently. As you know, in 1978 in the Murmansk region we had to force a South Korean plane to land on Soviet territory.

I propose that the USSR Defense Ministry, the Foreign Ministry, and the KGB be instructed to form a working group, charged with formulating the necessary measures and submitting proposals in connection with the emerging situation. Comrades N.V. Ogarkov, G.M. Korniyenko, and V.A. Kryuchkov could be in this working group.

Tikhonov: I don't understand what the Seoul pilot was up to. He must have known he was courting certain death. After all, he saw the signals from our planes and their demands to land. In my view this was a planned, deliberate provocation, designed to complicate and exacerbate the international situation.

Ustinov: It is hard to say what the South Koreans had in mind.

But it is quite possible that it was a deliberate provocation. The question is how best to report our shots.

Gromyko: We can't deny that our plane fired.

Demichev: They know, of course, that it was a live shot.

Grishin: What did the South Korean pilot say?

Ustinov: We heard nothing.

Vorotnikov: Were the South Korean plane's communications broken?

Ustinov: Nobody can say.

Ogarkov (chief of the USSR General Staff): All the same, we have information that the South Korean plane was talking with the ground.

Chebrikov (KGB chairman): I would like to add a bit to what has been said here. First, it is noteworthy that the American side had very accurate information on the South Korean plane's flight path and was observing it.

Second, the initial reports published by the Japanese are drawn from a single source—information received from the CIA and the U.S. National Security Agency. Therefore the question arises, why were the Americans devoting so much attention to a South Korean plane? Third, the downed plane, according to our information, was not in contact with U.S. aircraft and was in general flying dumb, so to speak. Fourth and last, the Americans themselves admit that the plane had penetrated deep into Soviet territory and was flying over the Soviet Union's top secret facilities in Kamchatka and Sakhalin. They also admit that the plane was shot down over our Soviet territory, and went down into the ocean in our waters. In fact it went down in neutral waters. We now have ships and an aircraft in operation there. The Japanese have sent about 20 fishing schooners to the site of the crash. We have picked up a number of objects. The depth of the sea there is about 80-100 meters.

Gromyko: So they could pick up the plane's "black box," or we could.

Chebrikov: They could. As far as we are concerned, should we do that?

Tikhonov: Clearly sooner or later they will come across the wreckage of the plane.

Dolgikh: And if they do, they will obtain information on how the plane was shot down.

Gorbachev: Did they register the live shot?

Chebrikov: No, they didn't register it. But I want to stress yet again that our actions were completely lawful and clearly stipulated in Soviet Army regulations.

I would like to say specifically that instructions should now be given to our Civil Air Fleet on complying strictly with international flight paths and corridors. Maybe we should even go so far as to cut certain flights to the east and to the United States. Imperialist forces will undoubtedly provoke demonstrations outside our embassies and other hostile acts. In this connection KGB and Foreign Ministry organizations must be given appropriate instructions.

Tikhonov: If we acted correctly, lawfully, then we should state frankly that we shot down that plane.

Gromyko: We should say that shots were fired. We should say so frankly, so as not to allow our adversary to accuse us of being deceitful. Our main argument should be that the plane was flying over Soviet territory and had penetrated an exceptionally long way into our territory. Maybe we should even provide a map of the aircraft's flight in the newspapers and on television, so that readers and viewers can see how grossly the Soviet Union's sovereignty was violated.

Solomentsev: How do things stand as regards compliance with international conventions?

Gromyko: The conventions permit virtually all our actions.

Grishin: First of all, I wish to stress that we should state frankly that the plane was shot down. Maybe this should be done by stages. At the moment we should say that we are investigating the matter, so as to establish the situation precisely. And later we should state that the plane was shot down. At the same time we must take a tough stance against all kinds of anti-Soviet provocations. This must be done today.

Gorbachev: First of all I want to say that I am sure our actions were correct. The plane was over Soviet territory for about two hours, so it can hardly be assumed that this was an unplanned action. We should make it clear in our statements that this was a gross violation of international conventions. It is no use keeping quiet now, we must go on the offensive. While confirming the existing story, we must develop it and say that we are engaged in a serious investigation of the situation that has arisen. At the same time, clearly, eastward flights by our planes should be scaled down to some extent.

Romanov: I support everything that has been said here. Our announcement should, first, point out that it was hard to tell whether the South Korean plane was civil or military. Second, we should emphasize the violation of very important international conventions. Third, we must say that the plane did not respond to any interrogation or signals. After all, under existing laws we are entitled to force a foreign aircraft to land if it is overflying our territory without authorization. Of course, we must determine the timing and procedure for our statements in the press and in the international arena.

Tikhonov: I believe we should take as a basis the announcement we have already published concerning the incident and stress particularly that the plane was in the USSR's airspace for about two hours. We should state frankly that it penetrated nearly 500 km into our territory and stress that the Americans knew about this violation of the Soviet border and could, if necessary, have informed the Soviet side about it.

Ogarkov: It is quite possible that this was a deliberate provocation, since U.S. intelligence is always trying to find out where our air defense forces are located and how they operate. The Defense Ministry now has transcripts of all the conversations that took place in the air on that day. They show that we can certainly stick to the story reported in our press.

Zimyanin: I would like to touch on the propaganda aspect of the problem. First of all, Reagan's rash statement must be refuted. It was gross and reckless. We should make an announcement on this matter on television today, and in the press tomorrow.

Dolgikh: I support the view that we should go on the offensive in tackling this matter. We could, of course, state that we are studying the incident further. But they will certainly raise the plane from the sea bed. Therefore we must speak frankly about the shots fired and actively emphasize that the Americans knew about the plane's flight path and the violation of our border and did not alert us to it.

Korniyenko: We have quite enough material to express the view that this was a deliberate provocation by the CIA. This is indicated by the first Japanese report, citing CIA materials, and a number of other facts. But we must not seek to avoid the fact that shots were fired. Imperialist propaganda could now even go so far as to broadcast on the radio the recordings of our airmen's conversations.

Gromyko: In our statement we must also point out that this provocation is aimed at overshadowing the Soviet peace initiatives put forward recently.

Solomentsev: We have no need to justify ourselves. We should say frankly that the sovereignty of Soviet territory was violated and international conventions were violated. We should go on the offensive, although maybe we could also say that we sympathize with the families of those who died as a result of this deliberate provocation.

Kuznetsov: I support the proposals made here. It seems to me too that this was a well-planned anti-Soviet act, and this must be stated frankly in the press and in our statements, which will reach foreign readers as well as our own. At the same time we should approve directives for our representative on the Security Council, where there will of course be a tough struggle.

Vorotnikov: I would like to support everything the comrades have said here, and to stress once again that we should take a firm stance and say that we fired warning shots to the South Korean plane.

Kapitonov: There is no doubt that our airmen acted correctly. Now, rebuffing imperialist propaganda attacks, we must act firmly and circumspectly. The shots must, of course, be admitted, but we must stress that no blame is attached to us here.

Gorbachev: Clearly we should make an official representation to the U.S. government.

Gromyko: And at the same time confidentially brief the leaders of the fraternal socialist countries and certain other states. As for the Americans, they must be given a firm official response. We will prepare today a draft directive for our UN Security Council representative. It is expedient also to say in a TASS statement that we regret the casualties.

Ustinov: We must adhere to a firm line—make an additional announcement mentioning warning shots.

Ryzhkov: I fully support what the comrades propose here, and I think our line should be principled, clear, and flexible.

Chernenko: So, comrades, it is good that we discussed this complex international question collectively here. It is gratifying that we hold a single view, a single stance. We must take an offensive, not defensive, line. Of course, we must be circumspect and cautious and think about the future, but at the same time adopt a resolute and calm stance.

It seems we could adopt the following decision in this connection: First, we approve the measures adopted in connection with the South Korean plane's violation of the USSR's airspace and the announcement on this question that was published in our press. Second, we should proceed firmly on the basis that this violation constitutes a deliberate provocation by imperialist forces, aimed at distracting the world public's attention from the major peace initiatives put forward by the Soviet Union. Third, let us note that the USSR Defense Ministry, Foreign Ministry, and KGB are to set up a working group that will speedily formulate the necessary measures and submit proposals to the Politburo in connection with the situation that has arisen. Fourth, I think it would be correct if, in light of today's discussion, we draw up and publish a TASS statement on this question and a representation to the U.S.

Government, and also give instructions for the formulation of a directive for the USSR's Security Council representative. As for briefing the leadership of the fraternal socialist countries and certain other friendly states, this information could be based on our representation to the U.S. Government. Fifth and last, we must agree to respond resolutely to all further anti-Soviet provocations by imperialist forces and to examine at the party Central Committee every official intervention of ours.

I will report the results of today's discussion to Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov without delay.

Talks on Nagorno-Karabakh Begin in Alma-Ata

LD2708060992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0515 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By KAZTAG correspondent Ivan Zakharchenko and TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kulagin]

[Text] Alma-Ata, 27 Aug—The meeting of the foreign ministers—Tuleutai Suleymenov of Kazakhstan, Tofik Gasymov of Azerbaijan, and Raffi Hovannisian of Armenia—began today at 1000 in the capital of Kazakhstan. "We have gathered in Alma-Ata, said the Kazakh minister, at the initiative of the president of our republic Nursultan Nazarbayev who, in his recent telephone conversations with Azerbaijan President Abulfaz Elchibey and Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, spoke in favor of urgently stoping the military actions between the two states and called upon the conflicting sides to immediately begin negotiations, with Kazakhatan acting as a mediator."

"We have come here on this peacemaking mission in order to solve the problems which for four years have worried everybody. We should attentively hear out and understand each other and work out the common contiguity points."

Talks Said 'Very Difficult'

OW2708110692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1006 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Talks to settle the armed conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh have started in Alma-Ata between the foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan Raffi Hovannisian and Tofik Gasymov with the mediation of Kazakhstan.

At the opening the Kazakh Foreign Minister Tuleutai Suleymenov said the talks are held thanks to the efforts of President Nursultan Nazarbayev who held a number of telephone consultations with the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan. He conveyed the wish of Mr. Nazarbayev to find mutually-acceptable solutions "to questions that concern nations". He stressed that the Kazakh leader will look forward to the positive results of the negotiations.

The Foreign Ministry press service announced that the talks began with the statement of approaches of the two sides. The head of the service informed IF [INTERFAX] that the negotiations should last till noon local time after which the two delegations are to be received by President Nazarbayev and resume at 15:00 [local time].

According to reliable sources, the talks are very difficult. The Azeri foreign minister stressed the need for the withdrawal of Armenian armed groups from Azeri territory, otherwise the future of the talks will be questioned.

Kazakh President Meets Ministers

LD2708085692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0823 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By KAZTAG correspondent Ivan Zakharchenko for TASS]

[Text] Alma-Ata August 27 TASS—"The Karabakh problem must be settled only on the basis of the universally accepted principles and norms of the United Nations, on the basis of the human rights declaration," Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev told foreign ministers of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Kazakhstan, whom he received here today after the first round of their tripartite negotiations, which began here today.

"Your meeting," he said, "arouses great interest not only in the republics of the former union, but all over the world. The people of Kazakhstan cannot live in peace when the blood of two peoples is being spilt. We approach the Karabakh problem earnestly and objectively."

"Together with Russian President Boris Yeltsin we have already played the role of mediators in an effort to resolve the problem. This role was also played by Rome and Turkey. But all these peaceful efforts were in vain so far. The same holds true of the declaration signed in Alma-Ata on December 21, 1991 by the heads of 11 states, which was approved by the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia."

"Today, it is impossible to establish who is right or wrong in the conflict. It is more important to map out concrete ways to stop it," Nazarbayev stressed.

After this, journalists were asked to leave the hall and the conversation continued in camera.

The second round of the tripartite talks will begin at 1500 local time.

Republics Sign Cooperation Agreement 26 Aug

LD2708045392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1213 GMT 26 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Sugak]

[Text] Moscow August 26 TASS—An inter-governmental agreement on economic, scientific, technological and cultural cooperation between Moscow and Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Estonia was signed in the Russian capital today. Endorsed simultaneously were lists and volumes of mutual deliveries. Members of the Moscow government were appointed as plenipotentiary controllers of the agreements. The Moscow administration is to receive quarterly reports on the fulfilment of the accord.

First vice-premier of the Moscow government Vladimir Resin is now in charge of the preparation of a similar agreement on cooperation with various regions of the Russian Federation.

Shaposhnikov on Withdrawal of CIS Troops

LD2708122192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] Touching on issues relating to the withdrawal of armed forces of the former USSR from the territory of independent republics, Aviation Marshal Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, said among other things in his exclusive interview to the news service of Russia's radio:

[Begin Shaposhnikov recording] Here we have several approaches depending on regions and the situation which

has taken shape there. Let's take the Baltics, for example. We support the opinion of the Baltic states regarding the need to withdraw Russian troops from their territory. We also support the opinion of the Russian leadership, which does not disclaim this. But any hastiness in this matter may lead to heaps of unwanted consequences.

We have withdrawn troops in a very hasty manner from Hungary and Czechoslovakia, and this year we are almost concluding the withdrawal from Poland. The withdrawal of the mightiest grouping of armed forces from Germany continues. And on top of it, there are problems regarding a withdrawal from the Baltic states, the Transcaucasus, the Dniester region, and so forth.

I think, if we are civilized people and call upon each other to solve these issues in a civilized way, in my opinion there is no need to conduct referenda regarding the withdrawal of troops. This is not a constructive position. A dialogue is needed, talks are needed, and timetables are needed. Yes, there is need to withdraw troops from the Baltic states. But when and how? It is necessary to do it stage-by-stage and calmly. We cannot withdraw them into an empty field or a forest.

That's why the Baltic leaders are somewhat hasty in using public opinion. Our servicemen, including Russian ones, are not guilty of anything before the present leaders of these states—not guilty of happening to be there. I beg your pardon, but it is not like dust on the table which can be dusted off or cleaned, and the problem will be solved thus. The problem will not be solved in this way.

No, no other state in the world except Russia is experiencing such difficulties with the withdrawal of troops, the market economy, conversion, the curtailment of the military-industrial production and so forth. There should be Russo-Baltic talks, Russo-Moldovan talks, Russo-Caucasian talks, etc.—my position lies in such an approach. [end recording]

Further on North Caucasus Weapons Situation

MK2508191092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Aug 92 p 3

[Unattributed report from "NEGA Reports" column: "North Ossetia"]

[Text] According to data from the North Caucasus Military District command, nuclear warheads were removed from the district's territory as far back as fall 1991.

A long-range heavy-bomber regiment is based in Mozdoka [v Mozdoke] (North Ossetia). These aircraft, capable of staying in the air for 12-13 hours, can be equipped with nuclear cruise missiles.

Previously, aircraft from Mozdoka made reconnaissance and patrol flights toward the Scandinavian countries, Spain, and Morocco. The possibility that the bombers were carrying nuclear weapons caused concern in these countries.

Military Inspectors Arrive in Tajikistan

LD2708102192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0957 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By KHOVAR-TASS correspondent Salokhiddin Ergashev]

[Text] Dushanbe. August 27 TASS—A team of military inspectors arrived here today on a peace-making mission from the Defence Minstries of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Inspectors from the Supreme Command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces and the Russian Defence Ministry are also expected to come here.

The "KHOVAR" news agency has learned from informed sources that the inspectors will shortly leave Dushanbe for some "hot spots" in Tajikistan. They will study and assess the situation there. According to the same sources, commander-in-chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces Air Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov is expected to arrive in Dushanbe in the afternoon of August 27.

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Moscow August 27 TASS—By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin:

The team of military inspectors will include 30 men—10 officers from the Supreme Command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, ten from the Russian Defence Ministry, and five each from the Defence Ministries of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan," ITAR-TASS was told today by Press Secretary of the Commander-in-Chief Lieutenant-General Valeriy Manilov.

The inspectors are being sent to Tajikistan at the request of its president and in light of the aggravating political situation in the republic. "Grounds for their stay on the territory of this sovereign state," Manilov explained, "are provided by the agreement on teams of military inspectors and collective peace-keeping forces in the CIS, signed in Kiev on March 20, 1992, as well as by corresponding decisions adopted by the heads of State Council."

The main task of representatives from the Supreme Command and Defence Ministries of the three countries will be to analyse the situation in various regions of Tajikistan, affected by political instability, and to draw up corresponding documents to the forthcoming heads of state meeting in Bishkek," Manilov noted. "Its agenda may include the question of the need to dispatch a contingent of peace-keeping forces to Tajikistan," he added.

Marshal Shaposhnikov will help organise on the spot the work of military inspectors and will return to Moscow within a few days. The mission of the officers will apparently last about two weeks.

Pacific Fleet Ship Fire Termed 'Quite Routine'

PM2608114192 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 26 Aug 92 p 1

[S. Avdeyev report: "Ships Burn Like Summer Sunsets"]

[Text] Vladivostok—Telegraph agencies relayed the news of the latest emergency in the Navy—a fire on the aircraft

carrier Novorossiysk. But local newspapers ignored the sensation: The fire had been minor, only one cabin was burned out, indeed, the event was in itself quite routine. Ships burn like summer sunsets here—violently and irresistibly. People are used to it.

But, after all, the fire was not on a collective farm machine and tractor station. The Novorossiysk is the Pacific Fleet's biggest ship; even during the years of stagnation its construction cost the treasury billions of rubles. It was on this ship, and also with the heavy aircraft-carrying cruiser Minsk, that our strategists pinned their main hopes of implementing military doctrine in the Pacific region in the early eighties.

True, in recent years both aircraft carriers could be seen more and more often at the Dalzavod quayside, where they took it in turns to be fitted for months on end, and the people of Vladivostok had already begun to accept them just as a city attraction, forgetting the main purpose for which, strictly speaking, these giants were originally created.

Having undergone all routine and intermediate repairs, both Pacific aircraft carriers have today reached a critical stage in their lifespans. All the systems and mechanisms need changing and repairing, but where is the money? This year the Pacific Fleet has been allocated only 35 percent of the money it needs to refit ships. Capital renewal of the Novorossiysk means leaving the rest of the fleet unrepaired.

"We have been driven into an impasse," a high-ranking Pacific Fleet Staff officer, who asked to remain anonymous, told us. "We have built so many ships that today we do not know what to do with them. There is a disastrous shortage of officers and also of personnel. Hence low discipline and a lack of professionalism."

Incidentally, the conflagration on the Novorossiysk happened because a seaman with two years' service inserted a conductor with a 220-volt lamp into a circuit with a voltage of 127 volts and calmly went to take a shower. The ship is being refitted once again, its crew reduced, and there is no one to keep an eye on every seaman. In short, a commonplace story.

I asked at the fleet headquarters whether information exists on the number of ship fires in the last year alone. They could not find me the figure right away, but confidently reported that there had been many. After every fire an investigation of the incident is conducted in the flotilla concerned, orders are issued, and measures are elaborated. The effect: Nil.

By order of the commander in chief of the CIS Navy the aircraft carriers Minsk and Novorossiysk were recently withdrawn from the active fleet into the second-category reserve and are waiting to be refitted or to be scrapped.

Ukrainian Takeover of Navy Schools Protested

MK2508183092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Aug 92 p 3

[Unattributed report under the "NEGA Reports" rubric: "Crimea"]

[Text] Ukrainian Defense Minister Colonel General Konstantin Morozov has issued an order on switching the subordination of two higher naval schools in Sevastopol to the Ukrainian Defense Ministry.

In this connection V. Samsonov, chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces General Staff, sent K. Morozov a letter, stating inter alia: "There are two higher naval schools in Sevastopol which are subordinate to the commander in chief of the Russian Federation Navy and the deputy commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces and which form part of the CIS strategic forces. The publication of your order to switch the subordination of the naval schools in Sevastopol violates the common system for training naval personnel. These schools train specialist missile-launcher crewmen for all types of naval forces and specialists in atomic propulsion plants [atomnoenergeticheskiye ustanovki]. The withdrawal of these schools from the common system for training naval personnel will lead to a reduction in the combat readiness of ships forming part of the strategic forces, which carry out tasks in the interests of the entire Commonwealth. Furthermore, Ukraine's unilateral action in respect of these schools could lead to the exacerbation of the situation in the Black Sea Fleet, prompt negative processes in the city of Sevastopol, and violate the agreements reached in Dagomys and Yalta.

"At present, in line with the Yalta Agreement, the Russian Federation Defense Ministry is preparing an agreement on training cadres for the Commonwealth Navy. I am asking you to take measures to halt unilateral actions in respect of the naval schools in Sevastopol."

Northern Fleet Discipline Arouses Concern

PM2508130792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Aug 92 p 3

[Interview with Aviation Major General Nikolay Stolyarov, chairman of CIS Joint Armed Forces Committee for Work With Personnel, by Captain Second Rank Vladimir Gundarov; place and date not given: "What Is Shaking Foundations of Service. State of Military Discipline on Agenda"—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] A group of officers from the General Staff, the main and central directorates of the Russian Armed Forces, and the CIS Joint Armed Forces Committee for Work With Personnel made an inspection trip to the Northern Fleet in August. The group was headed by Aviation Major General Nikolay Stolyarov, chairman of the Committee for Work With Personnel. In addition to other questions, the state of military discipline was investigated.

Captain Second Rank Vladimir Gundarov, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA nonstaff correspondent, met with Aviation Maj. Gen. Nikolay Stolyarov and asked him to share his impressions of his visit to the fleet.

[Stolyarov] Despite the difficulties encountered at every step, the Northern Fleet personnel are on the whole coping with the set tasks, and the majority of them are seeking to maintain the combat ability of units and ships. The most gratifying thing is that they have a zealous attitude toward service affairs. The chief conclusion reached by our commission was that the state of military discipline enables the fleet to resolve tasks of combat service and combat duty more or less successfully.

At the same time an entirely favorable picture should not be painted. So-called erosion of the officer corps is taking place. The alarming process of requests for early transfer to the reserve is making itself clearly felt. Whereas 591 requests were submitted in 1990, there have been twice as many this year. It is mainly young men, specialists in elite professions, who are leaving. The fleet's intellectual, technological, and moral potential is being eroded.

Despite the measures taken by the command, the number of people who die while carrying out official duties and also who commit suicide is increasing. During the first seven months of this year 553 crimes were recorded in the Northern Fleet—almost twice as many as during the same period of last year. The "traditional" crimes have been joined by one such as evasion of service. Incidence of this has increased 160 percent. The number of mercenary crimes connected with embezzlement of state property has increased 150 percent. Of course, you must not take a mechanical approach to comparing indicators. The situation in the country and in the fleet has recently been growing constantly more complex. But this is precisely why we must not take things easy.

Our comprehensive commission spent 10 days analyzing the state of affairs and ascertaining all the reasons why the foundations of service have been shaken. An attempt was made to some extent to extrapolate the situation to the Russian Armed Forces, since the situation that has taken shape in the fleet reflects on a small scale the state of affairs in the Army and Navy as a whole.

Among the many factors influencing the state of military discipline, the general ones should be singled out especially. These are the crisis in the economy, the strife in the political field, the loss of spiritual values, and the depression which has many, many people in its grip. The Russian Defense Ministry is seriously concerned at the situation with regard to military discipline, but nonetheless it has not yet accumulated sufficient experience to enable it to take account of both positive and negative aspects in the way this problem was tackled in the former Army, to find nontraditional approaches taking into account the novelty and ambiguity of the situation today, or to abandon obsolete educational postulates. I would like to hope that we will finally begin to examine the problem of strengthening discipline in combination with other questions: social, political, legal, moral, etc. We encountered such an alarming phenomenon as loss of purpose in military labor. At practically every meeting—and we held them with various categories of servicemen—I was asked: Against whom are we getting ready to fight? Who is our enemy? Why do we exist at all as an organization of armed people?

Discipline was traditionally considered a question that stands alone. It is molded in the process of combat training. The main element in its strengthening is well-organized combat training. How can we fail to recall Admiral Makarov, who is revered in the fleet and who maintained that there is a great multitude of things—namely the instilling of order and cleanliness on board ship and preparation for parades—and all this can overshadow the main thing for whose sake a ship is created: its combat readiness and its ability to fulfill the set combat task. A slogan in his office acted as a constant reminder of this: "Remember the war!"

But it is not enough to see a direct link between combat training and education. Because of undermanning and the shortage of fuel and other material means, there are fewer combat firings and exercises, in the process of which the foundations of strong and conscious military discipline are laid. Therefore we must take the situation into consideration and make sensible use of what we have. Well thought-out military economic work and the encouragement of a solicitous attitude toward hardware, weapons, and fuel are needed. The art of management consists precisely in not complaining about circumstances but in seeking and finding ways out of situations that arise.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 26 Aug

LD2608053392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0440 GMT 26 Aug 92

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow August 26 TASS—Today's newspapers focus their attention on the situation that has become sharply aggravated in the Transcaucasus over the past 24 hours, primarily in Abkhazia where fighting between troops of Georgia's State Council and Abkhazian units resumed with fresh vigour after a brief lull.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) reports that several hundred volunteers joined Abkhazian units on Tuesday [25 August]. The volunteers arrived in the conflict zone "in aid of the Abkhazian brothers" at the call of the leadership of the Confederation of the Highland Peoples of the Caucasus. "The spring of the conflict is getting wound up," KRASNAYA ZVEZDA comments in this connection.

The newspaper reports an abortive attempt by Abkhazian forces to dislodge Georgian guardsmen from the city of Gagry.

Pointing out the Russian leadership's concern over the development of events in Abkhazia, where the conflict has begun to assume an inter-nation character, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA reports an understanding reached between President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation and Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of Georgia's Council of State, to meet in the coming days to discuss the current situation.

With reference to the press service of the plenipotentiary mission of Abkhazia in Moscow, the newspaper also reports that Abkhazian parliament chief Vladislav Ardzinba will possibly take part in the meeting.

In the opinion of a KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA correspondent, whose report from Abkhazia is published in today's issue, "the armed confrontation in Abkhazia is acquiring a protracted character". The correspondent, while pointing out that "a war of nerves is under way" in that republic, at the same time notes that people on both sides die there every day "from bullets, not a nervous exhaustion."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA (THE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER), referring to an official statement of the Georgian side, reports that, according to Tbilisi data, "at least 500 hirelings from various republics operated on Abkhazian territory as of Tuesday". According to the Georgian side, "the number of volunteers may considerably grow in the coming days".

Tension is also keeping on in another flashpoint of the Transcaucasus—Nagorno-Karabakh—combat operations between the Azerbaijani Army and Armenian formations goes on.

Reporting the stay of a group of Turkish diplomats in Yerevan, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA points out that their talks with Armenian officials "were difficult" precisely "due to the tenseness of political problems". "Considering that, one can hardly expect that these meetings will produce real results in the development of Armenian-Turkish economic contacts", the newspaper points out.

The complexity of a solution to the Karabakh problem was stated in interviews with NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA by Armenian Defence Minister Vazgen Sarkisyan and Vagan Shrikhanyan, adviser to the president of Armenia on defence affairs. They were unanimous in pointing out that "it is likely the Azerbaijanis, just as Armenians, have got sick and tired of the war which cannot lead to a victory". At the same time Sarkisyan and Shirkhanyan stated that representatives of the two sides "have formed a steady image of an enemy".

Shirkhanyan added that the warring forces have weapons that "will suffice for many years ahead" but expressed hope that the realisation of the need for a political solution to the problem will still prevail.

"Logistics in the light of reform" is the headline of an interview with Major-General Vladimir Churanov, logistics commander of the Russian Federation's Armed Forces, in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. He pointed out in particular that "maximum patience and persistence should be displayed at this stage in economic work to provide the troops with all essentials".

He expressed hope that there will be "a deeper understanding of the needs of the Army and the Navy" on the part of ministries, departments and other governmental establishments on whom the logistical support of the Russian Armed Forces depends in many respects.

A historico-political survey published in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA today, on the day of the opening of a London conference on Yugoslavia, deals with the question of "whose interests are upholded by Russia in the Balkans". In the opinion of the authors of the survey, the contemporary policy of Russian diplomacy in the Balkans is "inconsistent", to put it mildly.

"The Russian Foreign Ministry acts in a quite short-sighted way by fully attaching itself to the Western policy, which is virtually a pro-German one, in the Balkans. The tactics tested by the West in Yugoslavia may under certain conditions be applied by it with regard to Russia itself. The helplessness and inconsistency of the Russian policy give good trump cards to the Russian ultra-nationalists," the authors of the survey maintain.

For 27 Aug

LD2708060192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0453 GMT 27 Aug 92

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow August 27 ITAR-TASS—The situation around the conflict in Abkhazia is the dominant theme of today's newspapers. The press carries reports by its correspondents and comments on developments in the area of the Abkhazian-Georgian confrontation.

"Ultimatums will not extinguish the fire," the newspaper SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA holds reporting about bloody battles at the approaches to the city of Gagry.

"Blood is Shed in Abkhazia," a signed article in the trade union newspaper TRUD states.

Commenting on the Moscow talks between the Georgian and Russian Defence Ministers Tengiz Kitovani and Pavel Grachev, the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper emphasises: "Yeltsin changed neutrality for mediation. Meanwhile, a serious war is going on in Abkhazia."

"The aggravation of Russian-Georgian relations that was caused by events in Abkhazia is not advantageous primarily to Georgian leaders. It is evidently for this reason that Tengiz Kitovani arrived in Moscow to clarify with Pavel Grachev the gap in the two states' positions," NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA believes.

"This conflict (between Georgia and Abkhazia) cannot be solved by the use of force," Adygei President Aslan Dzharimov believes in an interview with the newspaper PRAVDA. In his view, "the situation can only be exacerbated, bloodshed can be staged but peace will not come."

"We demand that armed people from Georgia leave Abkhazia. Only after this, the parties can sit down at the negotiating table," he notes.

The U.S. Government denounces acts of terrorism that have been occurring in Georgia lately, U.S. President George Bush emphasised in his letter to Georgian State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze. The summary of this letter is published referring to the NEGA news agency by NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA. In Bush's view,

acts of terrorism cannot be justified no matter what plausible arguments are put forward to support them.

Bush writes that he is well aware of the difficulties now faced by Shevardnadze but hopes that in this difficult period the chairman of the Georgian State Council will continue to pursue the course that at one time won him prestige in the world. Bush noted that the U.S. Government will firmly support this course.

"A bloody incident may soon occur in the Black Sea Fleet," Ukrainian parliament chief Ivan Plyushch warns in an interview with TRUD. He explains that "someone still wants to see Ukraine in the role of the junior brother" and that "someone is eager to play the Black Sea card." To avoid blood, Plyushch proposes that "a unified command of the Fleet be set up to comprise representatives of Russia, Georgia, Ukraine and Crimea."

"We want one thing—do not hinder us to build our sovereign state," Plyushch emphasised.

Newspapers continue to give coverage to privatisation efforts in Russia, specifically the introduction of privatisation vouchers. "By the cost of a voucher (10,000 rubles) the government simply humiliatated all Russians," PRAVDA believes.

TRUD holds a somewhat different view on this score. "Despite myriad difficulties, the government accomplished what is overriding for attaining its goals: has engaged in battle, using Napoleon's terms which Mikhail Gorbachev liked to repeat. Privatisation gets under way."

Under the title "Valentin Varennikov Denies" PRAVDA quotes General Varennikov, the former commander of the land forces who is now at the sailor's rest prison, as commenting on a statement made at the recent press conference of the Russian president regarding his (Varennikov's) demand that "President Yeltsin be shot dead" allegedly voiced by him in the telephone conversation with Moscow, where he called from Kiev, during the August putsch.

"I cannot believe that the statement of this kind and at this level was made without the 'aid' of some forces," PRAVDA quotes Varennikov as saying. "Actually, it is a follow-up on lawlessness launched a year ago, and attempts to exert mounting psychological pressure on myself and other inmates."

"The reason behind such actions is the absense of evidence to support the charges of treason in the form of the conspiracy to seize power that were lodged against me (and other comrades)," Varennikov holds. He contends that the surname Yeltsin "was not mentioned" during such telephone talks.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA also publishes Varennikov's protest.

Kozyrev Views Policy on Serbia at London Talks

LD2708082592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0736 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Tsvetayev]

[Text] London August 27 TASS—"The crux of Moscow's policy vis-a-vis Serbia is, on the one hand, to back rationally-minded people in Belgrade and, on the other, to isolate the aggressive forces," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who is attending the international conference on Yugoslavia now underway here, told the British ITN television programme.

Asked about Russia's observance of sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro, he stressed: "Our stand is absolutely clear. We want to make the verification procedure more reliable. If reports on violations of sanctions by somebody in Russia prove to be true, the guilty will be punished."

Kozyrev believes there is another aspect to the problem: "Some people apparently want the conference to draw up concrete recommendations on the kind of sanctions that are to be applied. But this is a prerogative of the United Nations Security Council."

Asked if the Russian Government's stand vis-a-vis Serbia reflected the entire range of views on this problem in Russia, the minister replied: "We have a noisy and possibly influential opposition to Yeltsin's Government. But at the same time, there should be no doubts either inside our country or abroad that Yeltsin's line is getting the upper hand and will remain predominant."

Meets With Participants

LD2708014292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2225 GMT 26 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Yuriy Sidorov and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] London, 27 Aug—On 26 August, Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev had a series of bilateral meetings with participants in the international conference on the former Yugoslavia, which is taking place here. During a conversation with FRY Prime Minister Milan Panic, there was an exchange of views on the prospects for a political settlement of the Yugoslav conflict. The Russian side noted the important role of the constructive ideas presented recently by the new FRY leadership, because during their implementation Russia would, in Kozyrev's opinion, have more grounds and opportunities to support these initiatives.

During a meeting between the head of the Russian foreign policy department and Macedonian President Nikolae Grigorov, the latter pointed to great concern over the republic's international isolation. The president noted specifically that, bearing in mind the high level of Russo-Greek relations, Macedonia is asking Moscow to facilitate the establishment of mutual understanding between Skopje and Athens. Grigorov mentioned that Macedonia is ready to discuss practically all questions with the Greek Government apart from any change to the republic's name. He expressed bewilderment over the fact that the Macedonian question has not been included in the London conference agenda. Kozyrev declared himself to favor the setting up of a working group on Macedonia.

Kozyrev also had a meeting with Greek Foreign Minister Mikhail Papakonstandinou. The Russian minister invited his Greek counterpart to visit Moscow. During the visit, the sides planned to initial a Russo-Greek treaty. The Greek minister said that Russia's stand on the Macedonian question "overshadows" bilateral ties, but, bearing in mind their traditionally friendly nature over many centuries, the Greek side hoped that complete mutual understanding will be achieved on the question.

During a meeting between Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic and the head of Russian diplomacy, detailed discussion was given to questions connected with a peaceful settlement in this former Yugoslav republic. The president reiterated that he favored the creation of a secular state and that he represented the republic, not its Muslim community, at the current London conference. He is prepared to meet Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic only after the Serbs relinquish all territories that has been seized. Izetbegovic, like FRY Prime Minister Panic, is willing, according to his remarks, to invite international observers to Bosnia-Hercegovina's borders with Serbia.

Kozyrev also had a meeting with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. A whole complex of questions connected with a Yugoslav settlement was discussed with emphasis on sanctions against Serbia. The Russian minister declared that the agenda of the London conference should not include the question of sanctions, which is the prerogative of the UN Security Council. Posing such a question would create a precedent. During the conversation, the ministers concluded that the London conference should not adopt any decision to stiffen sanctions, but if those attending thought it necessary, it could raise the problem with the Security Council.

Says Croatia Must Share 'Blame'

PM2708081592 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 27 Aug 92 p 3

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent D. Voskoboynikov, including interview with Russian Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev in London; date not given: "How Russia Views the Balkans From London. A. Kozyrev for KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA"—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] London—A telephone rang early in the morning at No. 43 on a quiet street in London's Holland Park where Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev was staying in one of the Russian Embassy's modest apartment blocks. Boris Yeltsin was on the line, inquiring about the atmosphere ahead of the opening of the international conference on the former Yugoslavia. Kozyrev had things to tell him. Since arriving in the British capital the day before the meeting opened, he already had managed to speak with the British, U.S., and French foreign ministers and had met with

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia [FRY] Premier Milan Panic the next day for breakfast.

After speaking to Boris Nikolayevich, Andrey Vladimirovich courteously agreed to give your ITAR-TASS correspondent an exclusive interview for KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA:

[Voskoboynikov] So, what position is Russia supporting at the conference and what results does it expect of it?

[Kozyrev] We primarily expect all participants in the conference to pool their efforts. The EC has been trying to settle this conflict for almost two years, but regrettably has been unsuccessful; the problem is a complex one.

Of course, we do not expect miracles: People are saying that everything will be fine as of tomorrow. The conference's task is rather to establish certain principles such as recognition of borders, a moratorium on changing the former Yugoslavia's internal borders, and recognition of civil rights and the rights of ethnic minorities in the republics. The meeting's other task is to create mechanisms for settling the Yugoslav crisis. Working groups will be set up to deal with specific aspects, along with a leadership committee, in which we will take part.

I hope that the conference will be able to give Milan Panic—as well as the democratic, sensible forces in Belgrade—an encouraging signal and also will demonstrate that the international community will not tolerate the continuation of the old militarist, nationalist line. There is also another aspect to this. Although, in our opinion, Belgrade (I do not even want to say Serbia because it is not Serbia, but an anti-Serbian policy) may bear the main responsibility for the bloodshed, particularly in Bosnia-Hercegovina, we are pointing all the time to the fact that it alone is not to blame for the conflict. A considerable part of the blame lies with Croatia and with the extremist-minded Muslim leadership there. Our approach is more balanced.

British Prime Minister John Major and UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali delivered a welcome address to the conference participants.

The British premier said that a peace settlement in the former Yugoslavia must be based on two interconnected principles: First, borders cannot be changed by force; second, human rights and the rights of ethnic minorities in each former Yugoslav republic must be observed rigorously. This concept will be formalized officially in the so-called "Statement of Principle," which the forum plans to adopt. An "Action Program"—a list of concrete steps needed to settle the Yugoslav crisis—evidently will be another document that the London conference adopts. Perhaps the greatest interest is aroused by two other potential documents that Major mentioned—a separate statement on Serbia as well as on Bosnia-Hercegovina. Although the content of these statements still is totally unknown, the British prime minister has warned already that the conflicting parties, Serbia and Montenegro in particular, must sign these documents and implement the position enshrined in them if they "want to consider themselves part of Europe."

Serbian pickets are posted around the conference building. The posters bear the inscription: "Stop the Mass Media Lies! Tell the Truth! The War in Yugoslavia Was Made in Germany" (a reference to the fact that the FRG impelled its EC partners to recognize Croatian and Slovenian independence as rapidly as possible—D.V.). Bosnian Muslims stood near the Serbs: "Bosnia—Past, Present, and Future," their banner reads. The word "Past" is written in red, "Present" in black, and "Future" in gold. "We hope that our country has a future," one of the pickets said, "but we do not expect a great deal of the conference."

Three Buddhists with shaven heads joined the handful of Bosnian Muslims and began quietly tapping on their miniature drums.

"Are you expressing solidarity with the Muslims?"

"No, we are simply appealing for peace in Yugoslavia."

Proposes Solution

LD2608171992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1623 GMT 26 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Yuriy Sidorov and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] London, 26 Aug—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has proposed a concrete and constructive program for resolving the Yugoslav conflict. He addressed the international conference on the former Yugoslavia, which opened today in London.

The head of the Russian foreign policy department regards it as a most important task at the present stage to arrange a cease-fire in Bosnia-Hercegovina by all sides, followed by their disengagement under international supervision and a political settlement of mutual relations between the republics of the former Yugoslavia and their mutual recognition. Andrey Kozyrev stressed the need for the recognition of the inviolability of all the external borders of the former Yugoslavia and the imposition of a moratorium on changes to internal ones, and also for the nonrecognition of territorial division effected through force. The minister considers that ending the practice of "ethnic cleansing" is a priority task.

In his speech the Russian Minister stressed the importance of fulfilling the UN Security Council resolution on the Yugoslav crisis. He proposed establishing strict international monitoring of the observance of the conditions of the settlement, not excluding the punishment of any side that violates them.

Andrey Kozyrev thinks that it is necessary to reject any plans for a unilateral settlement on the basis of either a single ethnic affiliation or religion. He indicated the inadmissibility of the crisis in Bosnia taking on an interreligious character. The Russian minister was in favor of guaranteeing the rights and particular status of the national

minorities of Kosovo, Krajina, and others within the makeup of the corresponding states.

The minister said that Russia views the present London conference as a new stage in the efforts of those who truly and directly are interested in resolving the conflict in Yugoslavia. The task of the conference, Andrey Kozyrev said, is in helping make a correct choice in settling the problem. The peoples of Yugoslavia are waiting for this, as is the international community.

Kozyrev Outlines Foreign Policy Priorities

924C2194A Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Aug 92 pp 1, 4

[Article by Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev: "Transformation or Kafkaesque Metamorphosis. Russia's Democratic Foreign Policy and Its Priorities"]

[Text] Franz Kafka wrote a horror story called *Metamorphosis*. It describes how one day a man wakes up to find that he has been turned into a horrible arthropod. For this reason the entire world turns away from him, and he himself becomes unbelievably contrary.

Against this we set the Bible story of Jesus Christ before he goes to Golgotha to save mankind, and later ascends the mountain and is transformed into God, or, rather, Man-Made-God.

Today, a year after the triumph of democracy in August 1991, Russia and the other CIS states face about the same dilemma: either metamorphosis—a transmutation from one kind of monster into another, or a transformation before becoming a true participant in the world process.

Let us not delude ourselves. This question was not resolved once and for all in August. It was only an attempt to preserve the old, to push society back to its former state, which was cut short. And that attempt was doomed. But in the White House, which was defended by tens of thousands of Muscovites, stood the bearers of the new, not necessarily devoted to the same alternative for the future.

What happened last August was, rather, that as they drew the final line under the past, the defenders of the White House were opening up a chance for the future. But the question of how to take advantage of that chance is being resolved today. And just over the past year two parties and two trends have emerged quite clearly.

Let us not build up some kind of fright, as in a detective story. I hope that this time the thoughts that I put forward this time will not appear under a garish headline reading "Kozyrev Warns of New Putsch." Although I do understand Andrey Ostalskiy perfectly; it was he who took up precisely this subject as the most attractive for the reasonably good interview he did for IZVESTIYA. I do hope, however, that the conversation will turn out to be deeper and more topical.

Yes, let us hope that the putsch will not be repeated. In fact, progressive-thinking people do stand at the head of the state. The chief of them is today not at all the president who was the head of the Union a year ago. The buttress and guarantee of democracy is the president of Russia, elected by the people. And it is even more apropos to recall the mandate that he has. It is a mandate for the democratic transformation of Russia together with all the space of the former USSR, and on the broader plane, the former socialist camp. This is precisely why Russia looks with such hope toward the war-stricken peoples of Yugoslavia, and the peoples of Eastern Europe, painfully feeling their way into the future.

But the resistance offered by opposing forces should not be underestimated. The simplest thing is to be aware of the communist opposition and to pity those who wave red flags because they are associated with decades of heavy labor and hopes, and we should be making a deep obeisance to their exploits, even if they were worshipping at the wrong altar.... It is even simpler to return along with the rectilinear defenders to the bosom of the CPSU. We can argue until we are hoarse about whether their choice is constitutional, whether the past of the party was constitutional. History itself has pronounced its verdict: Any power that does not come from the people and does not rest on honest and free elections, but on usurpation by a small group of those who claim to possess an absolute truth, is unlawful from the standpoint of contemporary legal and political consciousness. In the 20th century there is no place for dictatorship either of the fascist or the communist ilk.

It is, however, as if it is precisely the Russians and the other peoples of the USSR, who made a decisive and heroic contribution to the rout of fascism and, in August 1991, the destruction of the communist system, who must face a decisive duel with a third monster that lies in wait for humankind at the close of the present century. This is the plague of national-patriotism or, more accurately, aggressive nationalism.

The great Russian philosopher Berdyayev once said that communism had become the ineluctable fate of Russia. He traced the metamorphosis to totalitarianism from its feudal-tsarist and serflike socialist forms. Today there is a real danger of a new metamorphosis.

And again we clearly sense some kind of inferiority complex in the face of the difficult task of entering the surrounding world. In 1917, convinced that Russia was the sick man of Europe incapable of making it through to the end of the Great War, the Bolsheviks proposed their own primitive but enticing and simple solution. The essence of this solution was that instead of the inevitably prolonged and difficult democratic process of transformation, there would be a cavalry charge to reach, or so it seemed, obvious objectives. Peace for the peoples, land for the peasants, bread for the hungry—and all of this decisively and boldly, through direct action supported by force. It was in this way that they carried out collectivization and brought order to Czechoslovakia and Hungary, and later to Afghanistan; this was how they strengthened the Union....

And peoples who moved along a different path evoked a growing hostility, irritation, and abuse. The very fact of the existence of a gradual but steady flowering of liberal,

"babbling" democracies was an unacceptable challenge to totalitarianism. Outside it was democracy and the democrats of Nazi Germany that were perceived as Enemy No. 1, while inside the communist Soviet Union it was the bearers of these ideas, as a despicable domestic "fifth column" that was interfering in "how things were run."

Even during the decline of the Soviet Union this aggressive rejection of the surrounding world and the desire to force on protective armor against it began to be clothed not in the discredited apparel of Marxism-Leninism, but harrah patriotism apparel. We recall that both in the notorious "Word to the People" and in the appeal issued by the State Committee for the State of Emergency, the emphasis was laid not so much on the defense of socialism against the intrigues of imperialism, but rather on the loss of superpower status.

Here we have the very essence of a harmful consciousness. Aware of its own inadequacy in today's civilization and its own inability to assert itself in the surrounding world, it seeks a way out through confrontation with that world, thus affirming its own being and ultimately its own right to existence. Properly speaking, this is the deep nature and motive force of any aggressive nationalism, which now threatens not only us, but also Eastern Europe and even Western Europe.

It is time to recognize that this threat lies in wait not only for communist and totalitarian, but also democratic societies, especially if the democracy in them has not sufficiently matured. The most fertile ground for the carriers of this virus is the instability of national-state consciousness. The classic example was Germany in 1938, in which, instead of making the difficult entry into the League of Nations, which was being formed at that time, and learning to live according to civilized laws, Hitler chose the shortest route to revival of imperial might, and to national catastrophe....

Is this so remote from us in history? The Russian political climate is oversaturated with vituperative discourse about loss of national achievement and status as a great power, and the possibility of becoming one, or several, banana republics. And it is not only the national communists but also, I would say, the national democrats who are demanding individuality at any price and are looking for justifications for it.

Let us look a little more closely at these arguments. And not just for the sake of polemic, but first and foremost because in many cases it is a question of the real national-state interests but turned on their heads, and of a neocofrontational, pseudopatriotic consciousness.

The popular thesis on our Eurasian nature and the impermissibility of a pro-Western bias. In fact, if we talk about the West in the geographical sense, then a one-sided orientation only on our European neighbors would be unjustified. Even though the task remains of joining the European structures and establishing relations with the NATO Euro-Atlantic alliance, which includes the United States and Canada in addition to European countries. And the West as a political concept is the East for at least 70 percent of Russia. The United States, Canada, and Japan are our nearest neighbors in the Asia-Pacific region.

But it is not a matter of geographical discoveries. The attempt to close off America and the entire Western thrust of policy as a priority is transforming the Eurasian nature into an Asiatic one, and Russia as a great power in the heart of Eurasia from a natural connecting link between the highly developed democratic states with market economies (that is what the West really means) into a missing link, the sick man not only of Europe but also Asia, where firm trends toward "pro-Western" development are seen, along with integration on the basis of eagerness for the market economy and the modern organization of society. Whereas the communists are sickened by this direction in foreign policy out of ideological considerations, it evidently frightens the national democrats just as college scares the freshman.

In fact, to use the expression of the Russian historian N.M. Solovyev, Russia has a right to a place alongside the highly developed states and the leading representatives of humankind. However, because of the monstrous zigzag that resulted from the previous attempt to build a home-grown paradise in a single, isolated country, we must make up what was lost in a number of fields and engage, as it were, in external studies to follow the course of civilized behavior here at home and in the world that surrounds us. Neither Peter I nor the thousands of leading minds of Russia in the following centuries feared to learn from others. This, however, is humiliating for our new-made democratic state figures, who obviously believe that it is better to be a big fish in a small pond than a small fish in a big sea. Perhaps this explains the desire to make advances to the national-patriots who through their own clamor, particularly within the walls of the Russian parliament, seem to be a much more impressive force than in society as a whole, and to the most backward and reactionary part of the military-industrial complex, and indeed simply the industrial complex, which fears more than anything else in the world the loss of its privileged position in a closed economy and to find itself facing foreign competition.

It is clear, however, that instead of joining the community of democratic states and correspondingly the highly developed world economy, continued autarky would be tantamount to national betrayal and Russia's final slide into the category of a third-rate state, even though by dint of its geographical position and its scientific and technical and resource potential it is called upon directly to make the dash into the club of the elite.

So, dear fellow citizens, shall we walk barefoot into the city for a university education or shall we take delight in the fact that we have never graduated from university, and for that reason "the Soviets have their pride"?

In practice, however, an enormous and powerful country like Russia is simply unable, even when so commanded by parliamentary patriots, to remain on the sidelines of history and idle away its time as some kind of international ignoramus. Willy-nilly it is being drawn into big policy,

and on a global scale. And here it turns out that the issue is the direction of that policy: whether it is, as before, opposed to the leading states of the world community or is in alliance with them. It goes without saying that it is a question not of a new military-political super-alliance but of an alliance of states sharing common democratic and market values.

Let us take the Yugoslav crisis as an example. There is no need to explain why alliance with the national Bolsheviks in Belgrade is so attractive for our national Bolsheviks. But the position of the national democrats is somewhat more subtle. All we need do is ask the question of why Slavic Orthodox Serbia became the international odd man out after the collapse of the Yugoslav federation, while for the first time in history Russia has an unprecedentedly good international entourage during a period of the most difficult trials. The answer here lies not in some imaginary slavophobia in the West, but in the fact that on 19 August of last year the Russians rejected the path proposed by the State Committee for the State of Emergency for the preservation of the Soviet Union by force, burning international treaties, and using the army to punish those trying to achieve sovereignty and independence. But unfortunately in Belgrade it is precisely that line that has prevailed up to now. Why are we so outraged by sanctions against the national patriots in Belgrade (no national democrats have appeared there up to now, and the democrats in Belgrade are organizing a protest demonstration) when a year ago we applauded the condemnation by the so-called Western states, but again not the leaders in Belgrade, of our own State Committee for the State of Emergency, when support from those countries for the struggling White House convinced us once and for all that they are allies of a free democratic Russia?

The confusion about the notorious Slavic factor in foreign policy, however, prevents our national democrats from responding precisely and clearly to this simple and apparently convincing question. There is no question that this factor should to some extent be considered in the policy of a state with an enormous Slavic population. But this by no means applies only to the Serbian national Bolsheviks, who incidentally are acting not only against the national interests of the Serbian Slavs themselves, but also against all the other Slavic peoples of former Yugoslavia. We shall not forget that even the Muslims in Bosnia are still Slavs even though they profess a different religion. All the former Yugoslav republics look to Russia with hope and, as I have had opportunity to be convinced during a trip across former Yugoslavia, with love and to expect from it a fair position and protection from the game of war, which, of course, is going on not only in Serbia, but also Croatia and Bosnia and Hercegovina.

Incidentally, herein lies precisely the solution to which Russia together with Bulgaria were forced in taking the initiative in recognizing the former Yugoslav Macedonia as an independent and territorial integral state. In terms of population this mainly Slavic and Orthodox country, which is holding truly democratic elections and has pledged to renounce any claims against its neighbors, has remained unrecognized for several months and thus may become an easy quarry in a region where very aggressive forces are operating even against those countries that have a solid status under international law. I note that this was the meaning of the international recognition of Bosnia and Hercegovina, and before that Croatia and Slovenia, where forcible attempts had been made, and are now being made in Bosnia and Hercegovina, to deprive them of their right to independence and sovereignty. (We note parenthetically that Greece, which is concerned not about the state independence of former Yugoslav Macedonia but its name, has ultimately, after our urgent clarifications, accepted Russia's move with understanding—a move that does not ultimately decide beforehand what name shall be given to the Slavic state that really does exist, which is why we recognized it. So that in cases in which it is a question of justice, Russia can, should, and will go solo in the Balkans).

Let us consider the scenarios proposed within the framework of the so-called third, special path for Russia, as applied to the political-diplomatic game being played on the very important chess board of the UN Security Council. It is precisely here that Russia has succeeded in inheriting the status and privileges and simultaneously the responsibility as one of the five great powers that are permanent members of the Security Council. Let us not delude ourselves; this by no means happened automatically. There could have been different scenarios. But the concept of the USSR's inheritor state in the United Nations was worked out by Russian diplomats in the closest contact with their English and other Western colleagues. Behind all this could be palpably felt the credit of trust in the democratic leadership in Moscow, and that in the person of the new Russia the international community would not be obtaining a somewhat diminished version of the former Soviet Union, which for many years blocked the work of the Security Council, including by use of its veto, guided as it was by an anti-West and anti-imperialist doctrine.

The civilized world had already welcomed the policy of new thinking that led to the USSR's abandonment of its blocking, confrontational line. By dint of its own half-heartedness, however, this policy did not lead to the emergence in the Security Council of a firm alliance of democratic, highly developed states. Typically for Soviet diplomacy of recent years, the tactic was employed of slowing the increasing work of the Security Council in standing firm against states that violate the peace or (and this is usually the rule) those same regimes that violate human rights. It is not happenstance but a law-governed pattern that many of these regimes were the ideological allies of the socialist USSR. But the Soviet leadership of the perestroyka years was determined that it would not move, as in earlier years, to direct patronage of them through confrontation with the West. However, it lacked the spirit to move not in words but in deeds, in this case through diplomacy, to switch to the other, civilized and democratic side of the barricade. Therefore, as a rule, before a decisive vote the Soviet delegation would remain vague for a long time with respect to its own final vote,

sometimes taking time out several times for consultations with Moscow or some other kind of demarche pertaining to its own former clients.

Of course, in particular, specific cases it is appropriate to use old connections and channels of influence to try once again to achieve by peaceful means what must otherwise be extracted from former allies with the aid of sanctions and other harsh measures by the international community. But let us look the truth in the eye: In most cases all these demarches were made with quite clumsy maneuvering that counted not so much on real influence on the "intractable," but rather on fence-sitting. It is not happenstance that this kind of body movement failed to win real respect from either side, even though the West in general, of course, was grateful to Gorbachev for the fact that in contrast to his predecessors in the post of leader of the Soviet Union, ultimately he did not prevent adoption of the correct decisions. Incidentally, socialist China has also been employing the tactic either of abstaining or voting in favor in the Security Council.

Today, however, more is expected from democratic Russia and the democrats in the Kremlin: real alliance with those who stand on guard over international legality and are ready to make use of the most decisive measures for this, not by unilateral military intervention of the type made in the USSR's Afghan and Czechoslovak adventures, but in accordance with the UN Charter. I am convinced that this line (and in the latest votes in the Security Council it has started to take shape in the form of a firm Russian "yes") will evoke great respect both from its new allies and from its former "ideological friends" who, like the former Soviet regime, understand only a sharp tongue.

Really and truly, criticism of the present course from the national Bolsheviks, who are essentially demanding a return to the old position of the Soviet leadership—open opposition to the democratic West and alliance with all forces that oppose it—evokes great sympathy for our role. At least it is clear that it makes it possible to have if not those, then some other allies. And if we do not stand in the ranks of people of probity then at least we do not head up a gang of brigands. But obviously neither the one nor the other is enough for the "national democrats," who—as, for example, in the case of sanctions against the Belgrade national patriots—are proposing abstention in the Security Council vote. The logic is in general quite simple: The "democrats" do not want to join hands with the Bolsheviks while the "nationals" are sickened by alliance with the cosmopolitans when the issue goes beyond rebuffing power policy, and with the West. And no references to the "sacred cow" of Serbian-Russian friendship achieve anything here. All we have to do is look at the example of France, which, perhaps, no less than Russia has ancient historical ties with Serbia. It is not by chance that much in the actions by the French is similar to what we are doing. Before voting in the Security Council for the sanctions, the president of Russia sent his own foreign minister to Belgrade and Sarajevo. After the sanctions had been adopted, the president of France himself journeyed to the same places. After becoming convinced that it is precisely Belgrade that has carried and still carries the burden of responsibility for the bloodshed, Russia voted for the sanctions in the Security Council. And France, through the lips of its own president when he returned from his trip to Yugoslavia, spoke in favor of further decisive measures against Belgrade. I think that the vision of both Serbia's and France's long-term interests exerted an effect here, and also the self-respect of democratic France. I am convinced that out of the same considerations Russia must not go back to a policy of slowing things down, but must go forward so that a Security Council resolution on measures against those who violate the peace and human rights can be put forward not by three powers—the United States, England, and France—as now, but by four great democratic powers. If China with its political abstention in the vote can understand how far in the case, for example, of Yugoslavia, it goes beyond the zone of its traditional interests, then as applied to Russia, this kind of policy was totally at variance with those very special historical, Slavic, if you will, links that we have had and will have with the peoples of former Yugoslavia.

It is another matter that Russia impeded the adoption of hasty decisions on nonrecognition of the right of the new Yugoslavia to take the place of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the CSCE. This is a legal question that is still to be decided. And haste might have sent the wrong signal to the peoples of Serbia and Montenegro, who have joined the new interstate formation that is called the "Union Republic of Yugoslavia," and played into the hands of those very national Bolsheviks in Belgrade who are trying to turn the affair on its head and depict their own disagreements with the international community (incidentally all the Slavic states, including Ukraine, are speaking out against them in the CSCE) as the reason for rather than the consequence of their own aggressive policy.

Russian diplomacy is also following in the most attentive and benevolent way the positive statements that have been made recently by the new Yugoslav leadership headed by Federal President Cosic and Prime Minister Panic. Right from the start at all levels it has been said that if only these statements could be translated into practical deeds Russia will be the first to raise the question of lifting sanctions. All the other members of the UN Security Council have assured us that they will not raise obstacles. But action (not just words) must come from Belgrade.

Let us, however, return to the "Slavic factor." Can it, like the factor of Orthodoxy, become a real dominant in Russian foreign policy? I think not. First, because today no state is guided by such criteria in its own foreign policy if, of course, we are talking about the civilized, democratic countries. In Europe any attempt to divide ourselves into Slav, Germanic, or French societies threatens to return the situation not to World War II but World War I, and as applied to the Yugoslav tragedy, a repetition of history in making Serbia the detonator of a global catastrophe. Second, this kind of ethnic-religious foreign policy would be anti-Russian since it would promote a split in Russia itself, where along with the millions of Orthodox Slavs,

peoples of other nationalities and religions live, in particular the Muslims. And if hotheads among our so-called patriots are prepared even from the tribune of the parliament to state that under all circumstances Moscow should sympathize with the Serbian militia units in Bosnia and Hercegovina, then why should Russian Muslims not be just as reckless in defense of their fellow believers in that same Bosnia and Hercegovina? Then where would Moscow be? And is not this kind of policy tantamount to shifting the civil war from Yugoslavia to our own motherland?

I think it is quite evident that all the national diversity in Russia and the presence within it of many languages and religions constitute the richness, the broad palette of the Russian Federation's foreign policy. In certain proportions and, of course, on the basis of generally accepted legal and ethical standards, these advantages can and will be used in relations with particular countries to strengthen special relations in particular regions. That is how it is, for example, in our strengthening relations for the first time with the Muslim states of the Persian Gulf and some of our other neighbors to the south. And one of the most important features of this interaction, giving due consideration, in particular, to the Muslim factor, is opposition to religious extremism or aggressive nationalism, and this, of course, is also correct and applicable to Slavic and Orthodox preferences in the world around us.

Nor should we forget that any one-sidedness, national patriotism with a red Slavic-Orthodox taint, just like, incidentally, a Turkic Islamic taint, is a scandalous contradiction of the indisputable priority in Russian foreign policy of strengthening good-neighbor relations with "close neighbors" and insuring the smooth running of the CIS mechanism. At the same time it is precisely in this former Soviet space that no better use can be made of the geopolitical and other advantages of Russia as a great Eurasian power. Both for republics with a predominantly Slavic population and states with an Asian population there is no more natural partner than Russia, which by its very nature cannot be anti-Slav or anti-Muslim, just as it can be neither pro-Slav nor pro-Muslim. What is more, for both the former and the latter Russia will be an attractive and really valuable partner just on the basis of the principles of civilized behavior—those same principles that were worked out and are defended by the CSCE. We earned the gratitude and respect of our neighbors when we actively helped them become full-fledged members of the all-European process. Continuing this line, we shall pursue a truly patriotic policy of democratic transformation both for Russia itself and for the former space of the USSR, and the creation of a community of independent states based on respect for human rights, including national minorities, Russians, Ukrainians, Germans, Uzbeks, Tajiks, Jews, on a common basis of truly democratic institutions of power, equal states, and a market economy.

Even here, however, the bloc being formed between the national patriots and the national democrats is trying to impose understated criteria and, just like 70 years ago, to assert that civilized law, and consequently law in general, was not written for us. First, just like 70 years ago, the peoples on one-sixth of the earth are simply not ready for democracy. Second, just like 70 years ago, conditions here are so extraordinary that retreats from the complex procedures of negotiation, mutual respect, and the search for compromise are essential in favor of oversimplified power decisions. In fact, how heroic and decisive threats against our neighbors seem, how simple it is to give these threats credit for achievement of the political settlements reached in some regions as the result of long, complicated, and painstaking negotiations with the involvement of various groups of interested states! But how easy it also is to recognize behind any national patriot or national democrat that same commissar in his leather jacket. And let us consider this: Either the threats should be taken to their logical conclusion or once again we should move around the entire circle, including sending cavalry armies to quell rebellious peoples, resettle these peoples in a Gulag, and so forth. Otherwise the threats will just hang in the air, the blackmail will be revealed as bankrupt, and then no one will even be bothered to half turn his head to talk with Russia. And in any such scenario the CIS will not be exactly the same as the Union was. The republics will flee from the Moscow center instead of being drawn to Russia. Look once again at last year's instructive history lesson. If the August putsch finally alienated the republics from the idea of the Union, then the new Russia's adherence to democratic and economic reforms has earned the trust of its neighbors, and it was this that enabled it to move to the Dagomys and Yalta agreements with Ukraine and to a number of coordinating mechanisms for the Commonwealth of Independent States, and to military-political alliance with many of those states, including states in Asia, that just a year ago were apparently ready to look for an alliance with any of their neighbors to the south, but not to the north.

It is also time to remember yet another trend that is capable of throwing back Russian foreign policy. This is replacing reckless ideologization for a short-sighted "economization" that is just as reckless. It is not only here that the pressure is felt, and perhaps even not so much from traditional ideological partners but rather from international outcasts—the industrial and military-industrial circles in our country. That same desire can be palpably felt to avoid and cut short the difficult stage in moving to a highly developed society, only in this case not in the political sphere but the economic sphere. In fact, it turns out that it is not a simple matter to learn to trade with the countries that are more advanced in economic relations, or to penetrate the highly competitive markets that they have chosen. So there is a temptation to accuse them of political inefficiency and a reluctance to meet us halfway, which in some cases really does happen, and in this way to look for even some temporary easy profit from old clients who, under conditions of international sanctions that are damaging to them, are not so fastidious. With feigned naivete we often hear the call: Why is it that sanctions are being introduced against our trade and financial partners and not the West's? Does this not provide proof of some dirty

game? Meanwhile, the answer is well known—like master, like man. The fact is that under the communist system which stifled the Soviet economy in its embrace there could be no other partners. And today, without changing our benchmarks in domestic and foreign policy and without setting a course toward a change of partners, it is impossible to count on any worthwhile place in the world economy, or on any final elimination of the suspicion on the part of the Western business world, or the complete dismantling of Cocom [Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls] barriers, and so forth. Otherwise we must again set everything on its head as in these previous 70 years, and ascribe the guardedness of the highly developed West as the reason for rather than the consequence of our own inability to manage things in a civilized way and show the necessary discernment in the selection of our partners.

Foreign policy does not tolerate dilettantism; it requires a sense of balance. Yes, we have lived through the age of great geographical discoveries, from Russia itself and other states whose faces were obliterated by totalitarianism, to America, which has turned out to be not a Western citadel of hostility but our neighbor to the East and different. But recently we have started to see a trend toward a unique sense of discovery based not on profound political reflection and our geopolitical and other interests, but on our own kind of randomness in visits to any particular country by particular public life figures from Russia. And it seems that they have forgotten this country, that it is exactly also opening up strategic prospects for strengthening our influence throughout almost all of Central Asia, South America, or Africa. True, in this case attempts are often made to revive links that go back to the not so ancient traditions of anti-imperialist struggle and mutual support for adventures; that is, relations that require if not further development then extreme caution.

In this connection we must speak of the policy of weapons exports. The fact that even today for us this is one of the most profitable, unchanging items of foreign trade evokes no doubts, no reproaches. In this field as perhaps in no other, however, there is a great danger of sliding onto the old rails, once again not out of ideological considerations but because of oversimplified economic considerations, when it turns out to be a difficult business to penetrate new weapons markets where stable pro-Western countries (and these are most often best able to pay) do not acquire weapons to support international terrorism or realize aggressive plans by regimes at war with their neighbors and with all civilized peoples. Whereas the latter only dream of a return to the times when Russia used to supply the weapons of war, more often than not on credit (would that those debts could be repaid now!), the former just as naturally want to convince themselves that the old practice has ended and that the new Russia really does want to build its policy in a new way in particular regions.

And here it is not a question of ideology or the intrigues of the West, but the basic instinct of survival among the new purchasers of Russian weapons who at the same time become the victims of belligerent neighbors armed previously by the Soviet Union. The classic example here is the Persian Gulf, where even today the urgent task is to remove once and for all the threat of a repetition of the Iraqi aggression and to secure guarantees for the elimination of chemical and other weapons of mass destruction from the Iraqi arsenals. Incidentally, the latter were for us not only military exports but also a geostrategic interest, because destabilization in that region and activation of extremist forces there, whether of the pseudo-revolutionary or Islamic fundamentalist ilk, and even more their possession of very destructive weapons and the means to deliver them over great distances, are capable of spreading with dizzying speed to the vulnerable regions of the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Concern about nonproliferation of missiles and missile technology for military purposes is also a priority for Russian foreign policy in South Asia where considerable potential for conflict exists and even great and friendly powers, such as India, have still not signed on for the regime of nuclear nonproliferation. So it happens that any deal, particularly when it is a question of "sensitive" technology on our southern borders, must be weighed on very accurate political scales, not bazaar scales. Only if this is done will it be possible to preserve the military-political links that fully justify themselves, as, for example, with India, and at the same time move on to promising new partners that are not subjected to sanctions.

All of this in sum will be the policy of a great but normal rather than ideologized great power—a power that has respect for itself and enjoys the respect of the international community, a power of which it might be said "tell me who your friends are and I will tell you who you are," without fearing to be assigned to the category of international riffraff. For half a year we have been convinced through positive and negative experience that normal policy, and in general normalcy as a way of behavior abroad, both near and far, has nothing in common with primitive, cavalier sudden attacks, and improvisation. After 70 years of exclusivity, normalcy is something that we still have to learn. And paradoxical though it may seem, it requires the highest level of professionalism, whether in domestic policy or foreign policy.

When issuing a statement several months ago on behalf of Russia about entry into the Council of Europe, I specially emphasized that whereas in form it was a question of one country's joining a club of other states that already existed, what it was essentially was the beginning of a process of rapprochement and mutual adaptation, because the Russian Federation is not simply one of the new members but an entire continent with an enormous and original political, historical-cultural, and also economic potential. No one disputed this and no one will if, of course, we are talking about serious policies for both them and us.

The question lies elsewhere: Will we succeed in not setting our originality in opposition to the democratic community, but in realizing it through cooperation with it. And here it is not a question of playing up to the West. It has learned to live in a civilized and prosperous way without

us. For 70 years we also demonstrated our ability to live not by the common laws of democracy and the market. And now we can obtain financial stabilization from the International Monetary Fund, while the European community gains the respect of the Belgrade nationals. This means that we are once again showing ourselves: Know your own! It means that once again the "Westerners," who want a transformed Russia to take its special place not opposite the club of the most advanced states, and not alongside it, but within it, can finally retire with a quality of life that is not worse for Russians.

Of course, instead of national-patriotic political intrigue, true democratic policy faces many objective and subjective difficulties. It would be erroneous to depict the experience gained only as positive. There have been, are, and will be mistakes, because only he who does nothing makes no mistakes. Let us emphasize once again that discussion within the framework of this choice and the search for the most effective scenarios are what are most needed both for the government and for society. One problem is the still unformed nature of informed public opinion in the foreign policy sphere. It is still sometimes difficult to distinguish in journalism between a fondness for various kinds of sensationalism and superficial assessments in the spirit of "rightist" commentators in PRAVDA and SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, the newspaper DEN, or the "leftists" from KURANTY. Notwithstanding, there is no alternative to real free speech, which ineluctably brings the dross to the surface. Just as there is no alternative to a foreign policy that meets the real national interests.

Ideology is being replaced by a normal vision of geopolitical interests. Today patriotic foreign policy is the persistent realization of four or five main priorities that make it possible to create the most favorable conditions for domestic democracy and the economic transformation of the Russian Federation. First, there is the entry as a great power into the family of the most advanced democratic states with market economies, the so-called Western society, if you will. They are just as much the natural allies of a democratic Russia as they are the sworn enemies of the totalitarian regime, whether it has red, red-and-brown, or simply brown banners. The second priority, which coincides 70 percent with the first in terms of addressees, is the formation of good-neighbor relations with all states along the perimeter of the Russian border. Here, of course, a special place belongs to the CIS countries and the major powers of Asia, such as India and China, and neighbors to the south of the CIS. Both these priorities could not better match the third priority—the development of mutually advantageous economic links and attracting investment and support for the domestic economy. The fourth priority is to safeguard human rights, especially for the Russian-speaking populations in neighboring republics. Effectiveness in resolving this task will depend largely on the status that Russia wins for itself in the first two priority directions. And finally, the fifth task is the balanced use in the first four priorities in foreign policy of the advantages of the Russian Federation, such as the unity and diversity of the ethnic groupings, religions, and traditions. We have an unprecedented opportunity to be Asians in Asia and Europeans in Europe, and democrats in the world in general. Democrats first and foremost! Loyalty to the democratic choice in domestic and foreign policy means loyalty to the choice for which Russians voted at the first national elections for a president in their history, and which they defended at the barricades raised around the White House on 19 August 1991.

Statement Urges Safety of UN Peacekeepers

LD2608191692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1715 GMT 26 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations, 26 Aug—The UN Security Council must take most decisive measures to ensure safety for the personnel of the peacekeeping forces in Yugoslavia. This was declared in a statement by the Russian Federation's Foreign Affairs Ministry circulated at UN Headquarters on 26 August as an official document of the Security Council.

Reports of casualties among the servicemen of the UN peacekeeping forces in Yugoslavia are causing serious concern, the statement says. An alarming situation has formed around the Ukrainian battalion in Sarajevo: Two soldiers have already been killed, eight have been wounded, and equipment has been destroyed or damaged. There have also been losses among servicemen from other countries.

Respect for the neutral status of the UN "blue helmets" is the most important prerequisite for efficient peacekeeping operations. Those who violate this principle are defying the United Nations and the civilized standards accepted in world practice, the statement stresses.

Under the present circumstances the UN Security Council must take most decisive measures in order to ensure the safety of the personnel of the peacekeeping forces. Russia is ready to support active and, if necessary, strict ways of putting pressure on those responsible for encroachments on the life and safety of the servicemen of the UN forces in Yugoslavia, the statement says.

Roundup on Foreign Ministry News Briefing

LD2608163892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1527 GMT 26 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 26 August TASS—Russia notes with satisfaction a serious attitude of all participants in Washington Arab-Israeli talks in the framework of the Middle East peace process and their readiness for a concrete, constructive discussion of a settlement, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Aleksandr Rozanov told a new briefing today.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shi'mon Peres recently visited Moscow and his talks with Russian leaders confirmed that the Israeli side is determined to seek a mutually-acceptable peace formula with its Arab neighbors, Rozanov said.

"We believe that an emerging positive approach will dominate the Washington round and bring the sides closer towards resolving the key problems in the Arab-Israeli conflict," he said.

Russia intends to continue promoting peace and stability in the Middle East working in close cooperation with the United States, the other sponsor of the peace process, he said.

The Russian leadership is closely watching the situation in Kabul and is taking all necessary steps to ensure a speedy and safe evacuation of Russian citizens, said Aleksandr Rozanov further.

"It is currently necessary to create conditions for the evacuation which would rule out any threat to the lives of our people. The Foreign Ministry and our embassies in Kabul and Islamabad are actively working with warring Afghan sides to receive official guarantees for a safe evacuation and achieve at least a temporary lull in military actions. The secretary general and the U.N. Security Council are working to achieve this," Rozanov said.

Russia welcomes the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the Republic of Korea as an important step towards overcoming the legacy of cold war on the Korean peninsula and creating favorable internal conditions for an inter-Korean dialogue, according to Russian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Aleksandr Rozanov.

"The establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the Republic of Korea in the run up to normalization of relations between Moscow and Seoul is in line with positive changes in the region and the task of ensuring stability on the Korean peninsula and a revitalization in north-east Asia," Rozanov said.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman noted that Jose Ramon Balaguer, Cuba's ambassador to Russia whose mission came to an end a few days ago, made a great contribution to the development of Russian-Cuban relations in a difficult period of their reforming and bringing them into line with today's realities.

He expressed hope that "the most complicated period in relations between the two countries had already passed and it is now necessary that efforts be concentrated on finding fields where objective conditions exist to develop mutually beneficial cooperation."

"Surprisingly, the parliament Committee on International Affairs and Foreign Economic Contacts prepared and discussed 'Proposals for a state visit to Japan' without the Foreign Ministry," Rozanov said.

"The leadership of the ministry had not been invited to attend the meetings of the committee, although Japanese journalists had been warned in advance," he said.

Revealingly, despite a whole range of burning international issues the committee constantly goes back to this issue, although several important international issues which are by no means indifferent to Russia are left without any attention by the parliamentarians, he said.

"We cannot impose an agenda on the deputies but we would like to remind that the Foreign Ministry would like to rely on the opinion of Russian lawmakers as regards a broad range of international issues," Rozanov said.

Rosanov refuted allegations to the effect that Russian ships are violating the embargo, placed by the United Nations on Yugoslavia. As to the international conference on Yugoslavia being held in London, he proposed to wait for its results and to refrain from comments on Russia's tentative stand on the issue.

Burbulis, Turkey's Chaglar View Talks' Results

LD2608182292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1725 GMT 26 Aug 92

[by ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Sergey Feoktistov]

[Text] Ankara, 26 August TASS—Bilateral talks between Russia and Turkey ended here today with the signing of a protocol on consultations and the initialling of the declaration of friendship and partnership between the two countries.

The Russian delegations was led to the talks by State Secretary under the Russian President Gennadiy Burbulis and the Turkish delegation by Turkish State Minister Djavit Chaglar.

Upon the completion of talks, Gennadiy Burbulis told a news conference that constructive results had been reached during the discussion of problems connected with cooperation in the fields of power engineering, transportation, conversion and defence.

Burbulis stressed in particular that the development of ties in the fields of defence and conversion was "politically justified and economically promising".

"We have practically begun to build all necessary structures of large-scale and long-term Russo-Turkish relations," the Russian state secretary said. He noted that "Russia and Turkey understand their role and responsibility for the developments in the region, Europe and the world".

Burbulis said that during the talks the Russian side proceeded from three principles—a careful and constructive attitude to the 500-year-old history of our inter-state relations, the principle of reformer solidarity and the principle of animated pragmatism.

The Russian politician said an accord had been reached on increased supplies of Russian gas to Turkey from 1996 on. The sides agreed to update the existing pipelines and build new ones, including across the Caspian Sea with the participation of Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan.

The Turkish state minister pointed out that the two countries had the will and determination to develop relations between Turkey and Russia that have deep historical roots.

The Turkish politician also noted that there exists "great potential for enriching bilateral relations with specific projects".

Burbulis Views Cooperation

OW2608191492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1748 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian-Turkish negotiations have proved all our expectations," the State Secretary for the Russian President, Gennadiy Burbulis, who is at present visiting Turkey, said in an interview given to our special correspondent Vyacheslav Terekhov. According to Burbulis, both sides are in earnest about the practical implementation of the provisions of the documents signed by the leaders of both states in Istanbul and Moscow.

In his opinion this is a perfectly feasible task since, in spite of all the differences, the mechanism and forms for the implementation of reforms are exactly the same in Russia and Turkey. Moreover, "Russia appreciates the unambiguous character of the Turkish leaders' political strategy."

The negotiations are covering several fields of cooperation such as politics, the power and fuel industry, transport, and arms trade.

As regards fuel trade, Burbulis said, the Russian delegation does not want to take any primitive attitude to that like "We'll send them a lot of gas, and they'll be our friends." "We want long-term projects for the joint production of natural gas and the comprehensive processing of energy resources. We would also like to get third countries involved in such projects." "As for transport, we are interested in joint efforts to modernize Russian Black Sea ports and develop sea and air navigation."

In Burbulis's view cooperation between Russia and Turkey can be particularly fruitful in the south of Russia. "This rich but neglected region where no civilized economic methods have ever been used seems very attractive to some Western businessmen who are after its riches. Russia and Turkey would like to work out a comprehensive long-term program for its development. This would make the population of Krasnodar and Stavropol territories and Rostov Region abandon their fear that foreigners would come and buy up everything, turning local people into their servants. I know such sentiments do exist but our program would make it clear that the governments of the two coutries sought to do good rather than harm to the peoples populating it."

"We don't need bargains for an hour," Burbulis continued. "What we need is long-term economic cooperation."

Speaking about arms trade, Burbulis said, "We have an excess of arms but we believe we can only sell them to partners with whom we cooperate on a stable and long-term basis. Selling arms to Turkey would also enable Russia to openly ask Turkey whether it has any secret interests in Azerbaijan the pursuit of which would be harmful to Armenia. We are naturally trying to negotiate guarantees that the arms we sell Turkey don't go any further than that country."

Political cooperation between the two countries is, according to Burbulis, aimed at the settlement of the conflicts in Abkhazia and Nagorno-Karabakh. In Burbulis's view, the political situation in Central Asia may also considerably improve if Russia and Turkey exercise joint influence on the region, both directly and via European and other international organizations.

Today the Russian delegation is visiting Izmir and Istanbul meeting Turkish businessmen.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: The Turkish press has reported that Russian and Turkish experts are currently drafting an agreement stipulating Russia's sale of helicopters, armored personnel carriers, etc. to Turkey to a sum of $300m [million].

Yeltsin's Visit to Japan To Begin 13 Sep

LD2708061292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0530 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Bantin]

[Excerpts] Tokyo, 27 Aug—In the course of the forthcoming visit to Japan, President Boris Yeltsin might invite Emperor Akihito to visit Russia. The possibility of such step is being now considered by Moscow, alleges KYODO news agency referring to sources in the Russian Government. [passage omitted]

As is being planned, the meeting of Boris Yeltsin with Emperor Akihito will take place on the second day of the Russian president's visit to Japan which begins on 13 September

Ministry: No Role in Visit

LD2608142792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1350 GMT 26 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow August 26 TASS—"It is surprising that the Russian Foreign Ministry was in no way involved in the preparation and consideration by the Russian Parliament's Committee for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations of the item on working out of proposals for the state visit to Japan", the ministry's spokesman Aleksandr Rozanov told a news briefing here today.

"Ministry leaders were not as much as invited to attend the committee meeting, while Japanese journalists were notified in advance," the spokesman complained.

The committee repeatedly returns to the same problem although there is a great number of other pressing international issues awaiting consideration. A number of acute world political problems of concern for Russia have been ignored by parliamentarians, he said.

"We by no means want to force an agenda on parliament members, but we would like to remind them that it is highly desirable for the Foreign Ministry to draw on the views of the Russian legislators on a wide range of international problems," he said.

Visiting PRC Defense Chief Inspects Airbase

LD2608162492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1335 GMT 26 Aug 92

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow August 26 TASS—Chinese Defence Minister Colonel-general Qin Jiwei visited an airbase in Kubinka outside Moscow today to inspect Russian military aircraft and watch demonstration flights.

On August 30, Qin Jiwei is expected to visit the cosmonaut-training centre in Zvezdny outside Moscow. On Thursday [27 August], he is due to fly to St. Petersburg.

Government Statement on Afghan Situation

LD2608141492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1348 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Text] Moscow August 26 ITAR-TASS—Fierce fighting between Rabbani's government troops and forces of Hekmatyar continues in Kabul. Thousands of people were killed. The Afghan capital was considerably damaged.

The foreign missions are in a very difficult situation, particularly the Russian Embassy, which is in the epicentre of fighting and is systematically under fire. As it was already reported, two staffers of the embassy were killed. Destruction was caused. Missiles hit the embassies of Bulgaria, India, Pakistan, France.

Foreign personnel should be guaranteed the opportunity to leave Kabul safely. The evacuation by air is the safest way. In view of this, Russia is prepared to send aircraft to Kabul to take out Russian and other foreign citizens. The delay about solving this matter may result in more casualties.

The Russian Government urges the warring Afghan sides to guarantee the safety for flights of foreign personnel from Kabul. The Russian Government asked the U.N. secretary-general, the governments of countries that are permanent members of the United Nations security countries, as well as the governments of Pakistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia, to take urgent measures to exert influence on the Kabul Government and the groups opposing it.

Cuban Ties Need To Reflect 'Present Situation'

LD2708095392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Aleksandr Rozanov said that the most difficult period in relations between Russia and Cuba is over. Rozanov stressed the need to adapt the relationship between the two countries so that it reflects the present situation in the world.

Justice Minister Assails Georgian Actions

LD2608164592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1544 GMT 26 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow August 26 TASS—Russian justice minister has noted a fact of "aggression by Tbilisi against territories and peoples living in Abkhazia." In an interview with TASS he stressed that irrespective of "whether we like the policy of this or that region, people or state structures or not, to go along the way of power methods in resolving ethnic problems is a hopeless, illegal and immoral case."

Nikolay Fedorov expressed this viewpoint both as a minister and as a deputy chairman of the newly-created Commission of the Russian Security Council on the North Caucasus. He expressed deep regret that this policy by Tbilisi towards Abkhazia is linked with Eduard Shevardnadze's name.

The task of the Russian policy currently is to take every measure, admissible from the point of view of international law to protect the rights of people and human rights, Nikolay Fedorov believes. Especially when these rights are being violated on the Russian borders and when it is practically impossible to stop the moral solidarity of the people of North Caucasus with the people of Abkhazia.

"Both in the juridical and international-legal and political aspects we cannot be indifferent to what is going on on the territory of Abkhazia," the minister said.

Russia has the right to take "all measures acceptable in the framework of international-legal institutes to protect things that are defended by all bearers of civilized legal standards."

This offers "a unique chance for the Russian leadership and president to rise up to the defence of such great value as human rights and minority rights. If Russia takes up this role, the danger of a war in the Caucasus will be blocked," the justice minister believes.

'Assembly' Demands Shevardnadze Lose Citzenship

OW2508174592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1646 GMT 25 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A co-chairman of the "Russian National Assembly" movement, former KGB General Aleksandr Sterligov expressed his amazement over the fact that Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian State Council chairman, "still has Russian citizenship", right of permanent residence in Moscow and a house near Moscow.

In an open letter to the President and the Speaker of Russia's Supreme Soviet, Aleksandr Sterligov expressed the opinion that the evidence listed above testifies to the fact that "Russia, in the person of Eduard Shevardnadze, wages an undeclared war against the peoples of Abkhazia".

"If you, gentlemen, fail to confirm Russia's official participation in the war with Abkhazia," Aleksandr Sterligov addressed the Russian leadership, "the Russian National

Assembly will demand that Eduard Shevardnadze be deprived of Russian citizenship, of the right of permanent residence in Moscow and deported from our country in 24-hours".

Border Troop Accord Signed With Turkmenistan

LD2708015892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0000 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] Russian Security Minister Viktor Barannikov signed the Russian-Turkmen agreement on border troops in Ashgabat today. It envisages the joint guarding of the Turkmen external border and will establish the status of the Russian border troops in this Central Asian republic. The project envisages the separate command of the Russian and Turkmenian border troops units. Viktor Barannikov stated at the 26 August news conference in Ashgabat that for coordination of action, a joint council of the commanders with periodically succeeding chairmen will be established.

Yeltsin, Landsbergis Troop Pullout Talks 8 Sep

LD2608123992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1232 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Text] Moscow August 26 ITAR-TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Lithuanian Leader Vytautas Landsbergis are due to meet on September 8 in Moscow to sign an agreement and a time table for the withdrawal of troops from Lithuania, according to the presidential spokesman, Vyacheslav Kostikov.

The spokesman said the defence ministers of the two countries will take part in the meeting.

Political Issues

Commission To Study North Caucasus Issues

LD2708103792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1012 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow August 27 TASS—"The purpose of the Russian Security Council's North Caucasus Commission is to eliminate the threat to the public and state security of the Russian Federation," ITAR-TASS was told by Vice-Chairman of the Commission, Russian Justice Minister Nikolay Fedorov. This is the first commission set up in keeping with the law on the security of the Russian Federation.

Its establishment came as a result of numerous appeals by leaders of practically all the peoples of the Northern Caucasus, addressed to the Russian leadership and stressing the need of a high-status commission, which would have direct access to the president," the minister said. "The commission will handle acute, global problems pertaining to all of Russia. It will work on a permanent basis, dealing primarily with political issues, as well as economic and organisational matters. The commission is called upon to offer national-psychological and legal solutions to conflicts arising in the region. But its main purpose is to forestall confrontations and not to run around with a fire hose trying to extinguish conflagrations caused by flaws in our inter-ethnic policy," Fedorov stated.

The commission includes representatives from the Russian Ministries of Security, Defence, Finance and Economy. It will work both in Moscow and in the Northern Caucasus, where its permanent headquarters are to be set up.

Fedorov said also that plans are afoot to hold in Moscow a political forum on problems of the Northern Caucasus. It will be attended by leaders of all the peoples of that region, as well as the leaders of Abkhazia and Georgia. "The President of Russia," Fedorov noted, "attaches great importance to this meeting and expects it to help resolve pressing problems in the South Russian region and in Transcaucasia."

Caucasian Highlanders To Face Criminal Charges

LD2708075992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0655 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] Moscow August 27 TASS—The Russian Procurator's Office has instituted on Thursday [27 August] criminal proceedings concerning the calls by the Confederation of Caucasian Highland Peoples for fanning up ethnic strife, committing terrorist and saboteur acts and capturing hostages.

The Procurator's Office press centre reported today that the confederation, an unregistered non-government organisation, was earlier warned by the office about the inadmissibility of illegal actions taken by the confederation in connection with the events in Abkhazia. However, its leaders ignored the warning.

The investigative department of the Procurator's Office was charged with investigating the case. The investigative group includes officers from the Russian Security and Interior Ministries.

Government Discusses Caucasus Conflict 25 Aug

PM2708091392 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 27 Aug 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Area of Special Attention"]

[Text] Political problems dominated the Russian Federation Government Collegium session held 25 August. First and foremost, it examined the situation in the Transcaucasus and the North Caucasus. The Russian Federation Government examined questions relating to the evacuation of Russian citizens from the conflict zone, the provision of aid to the refugees, the situation in South Ossetia, and work in the region to ensure law and order and to cooperate with the South Ossetian, North Ossetian, and Georgian authorities.

Moreover, the government collegium session examined the situation in Ingushetiya and problems relating to the activity of the peacekeeping forces in the Dniester region and the need to seek ways to find a peaceful settlement to the armed conflict in the left bank region of Moldova.

The collegium discussed organizational and financial decisions which would make it possible to solve the refugee problem. A commission headed by Vice Premier Georgiy Khizha was set up to coordinate departments' activities in this area. Contacts were outlined with the Georgian authorities with a view to finding mutually acceptable peaceful solutions to the conflict.

Moscow Communist Rally Assails Government

LD2608204192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1900 GMT 26 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow August 26 TASS—Several thousand communists bearing slogans "Fatherland is in danger" and "The August 1991 is Russia's national tragedy", gathered near Moscow's Gorkiy Park on Wednesday [26 August]. Their number was well below the 50,000 figure anticipated by the organizers.

A red flag was hoisted up as participants listened to the anthem of the former Soviet Union. One day before the gathering Viktor Anpilov, one of the leaders of the Trudovaya Rossiya movement, speaking at the entrance to Gorkiy Park promised to turn the rally into "Ostankino II". He was partially right. Just like several years ago, communists called for the resignation of President Boris Yeltsin and his "provisional occupational government" and the restoration of the country within old Soviet borders.

"We shall come out against the current anti-popular government," said former Soviet people's deputy Sazhi Umalatova. "Our task is to restore the great socialist country".

A "hot" autumn lies ahead of "all of us", Russian lawmaker Vladimir Isakov told the rally. Yegor Gaydar's government "is in agony, scrambling to find a way out of the economic and political crisis", Isakov said. The forthcoming privatization in the republic is "an outright deceit of the people", he said.

Supporters of the communist idea unanimously passed a resolution of the long-running rally, which denounced the country's leadership. "Russia's foreign policy is pro-American and the interests of Slav brothers are betrayed all over the world," the resolution said.

Yeltsin Takes Walk in Moscow, Notes Situation

LD2608195492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Video report by unidentified correspondent on walkabout by Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow on 26 August—from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Red Square and Tverskaya Street—this was the route of Boris Yeltsin's walk around Moscow today. All who happened to be here at the time, naturally, could ask the president any questions, about bread prices, about a possibly hard winter, about privatization peculiarities, and difficulties with receiving credits. In shops on Tverskaya Street, which the president suddenly visited, he had a conversation with those who were there at the time.

[Yeltsin] If we take Russia as a whole, during July average wages increased by 19 percent and the price index by 10 percent. This was in July. Can you see? If this positive tendency continues, at least, it won't get worse. This is the first. The second, we will have bread. [video shows Yeltsin on walk-about; greeted by people in the street; in a shop talking to customers]

Yeltsin Forwards Constitutional Amendments

LD2608121592 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin has sent to the Constitutional Commission of the Russian Federation his amendments to the draft of a new Constitution. He again insisted that Russia should be a presidential and not a parliamentarian republic. He says the president should have the right to veto a law passed by the parliament, if needed, and should likewise have the right to hold referendums in the country when he finds that necessary. President Yeltsin also proposes banning constitutionally the Communist Party, along with racist and nationalist organizations. At the same time President Yeltsin expressed readiness to meet parliament halfway and recognized its right to approve not only the prime minister but also the top officials of key ministries.

Restrictions on Special Vehicles, Privileges

PM2608105392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Aug 92 Morning Edition p 8

[Valeriy Yakov report under the "Crossroads" rubric: "Special Vehicles' Privileges To Be Reduced"]

[Text] For the first time at the highest state level in Russia certain rights of special vehicles, a subject surrounded by an aura of mystery, have been defined, and this has been done openly and publicly by the country's president.

At the editors' request, Major General Vladimir Fedorov, chief of the Russian State Motor Vehicle Inspectorate Main Administration, comments on the decree.

The Highway Traffic Regulations clearly stipulate the rights of drivers of special vehicles with the appropriate signaling devices and coloring, as everyone who sits behind the wheel knows. But until recently the regulations have been silent about another category of special vehicles, which are really perquisites—apparatus cars, which have in recent years been equipped with numerous signaling devices on an increasing scale. Of course, it should be taken into account that sometimes the major leaders of the country and government are forced by a shortage of time to break the speed regulations on the roads, and the special signals were designed to warn other motorists of this. But by no means the least part has been played by the personal ambitions of some leaders and, most often, their drivers, who have driven the vehicle even in the "boss'" absence as if the road were made just for them. In addition, drivers had a material incentive—for driving such a car a supplement of up to 40 percent of their earnings was applicable.

An unseen battle has been under way for many years around special transportation; on the one hand the State Motor Vehicle Inspectorate has sought to the best of its ability to restrict the numbers of such vehicles, because an increase in their numbers was not conducive to order on the roads. On the main thoroughfares of Moscow, morning and evening, it was possible to see black cavalcades with sirens and flashing lights every 10 to 15 minutes, holding up the whole flow of traffic. On the other hand, more and more functionaries sought to get hold of the "whirligigs" as another of the trappings of power—a car with special signals. In the final analysis this has led to drivers in Moscow actually ceasing to take notice of vehicles with special lights or sirens, and frequently not giving way to them. And this includes vehicles genuinely in need of urgent passage—"first aid" vehicles, the militia, and fire engines.

The president's decree commits the government to endorsing the compilation of the Highway Traffic Regulations, and it is important that this will finally become not just a departmental document, but a government document. A draft of the regulations already exists, and by the end of the year the new regulations will most likely have been confirmed. But already punishment has been provided for the unauthorized fitting and use of special signals, and there are rather a lot of cases of this. In just two days of a crackdown in Moscow, in V. Fedorov's words, 35 vehicles fitted with unauthorized signaling devices were discovered—vehicles belonging to joint ventures and small enterprises were detained, and even a collective farm chairman from Kaluga, who had decided to travel through Moscow with a siren and beacon lights.

According to the decree, the president's administration is to determine a specific list of services which will have the right to special signals (with the exception of MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] vehicles, "first aid" vehicles, and others specified by the state standards authority), and access to flashing lights and sirens will thereby be restricted. It is proposed that the Russian State Motor Vehicle Inspectorate will issue special signals, and not the local organs of power, which, after the example of the Moscow government, have even begun to sell the right to this highway privilege, devising their own taxes for the various special signals.

State Officials Face Prosecution for Corruption

PM2408135592 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 21 Aug 92 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Many Bribes Given and Taken"]

[Text] "Why have the militia and prosecutor's office not noticed?"—that question is being heard with increasing frequency. It emerged from a report that the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs [MVD] Public Relations Center gave KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA that the militia has not just noticed, but is taking action.

In the first six months of this year republic internal affairs organs instituted 375 criminal proceedings against people engaged in corruption at all levels. Altogether 227 corrupt state officials have established direct links with organized criminal groups. A total of 206 criminal processes have been instituted against corrupt personnel working for state directorate agencies. And 19 people's deputies and two court workers have also suffered this sorry fate.

From the results of the work carried out to implement the Russian president's Decree "On Fighting Corruption Within the System of State Service" 97 senior officials have been relieved of their posts and other proceedings taken against 82 people.

Over the last few days internal affairs personnel from the organized crime departments have arrested two senior members of the Russian MVD central apparatus for illegally issuing representatives of commercial structures with permits for the right to carry and store firearms. Criminal proceedings have been initiated in respect of this case.

A criminal group with interregional links has been exposed in Krasnodar Kray—engaged in stealing automobiles in Moscow and subsequently selling them in Novorossiysk. Ten automobiles have been confiscated from the criminals. Those against whom criminal proceedings have been instituted include the chairman of a Moscow cooperative, a member of the Novorossiysk customs service, and a Novorossiysk State Automobile Inspection service staffer.

Foreign Ministry To Open Offices in Four Cities

OW2108135692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1320 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondents A. Borodin, I. Porshnev, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Under a government resolution signed by Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin Russia's Foreign Ministry is to open its offices in Kaliningrad, Birobijan, Khabarovsk and Chita.

The resolution instructs the Foreign Ministry to carry out together with the administrations of Kaliningrad and Chita Regions, the Jewish Autonomous Region and Khabarovsk Territory "the necessary measures connected with the opening of its offices".

As DP [Diplomatic Panorama] already reported, Russia's diplomatic establishment intends to open its offices in more than 20 cities of the Russian Federation, first of all in those that house foreign diplomatic missions and large numbers of foreign specialists.

The Foreign Ministry's offices will help to promote interaction between the local administrations and foreign diplomatic missions and trade organizations. They'll also engage in settling legal and visa issues.

According to estimates, the upkeep of one such office will cost 200,000 rubles a month.

Decree on Municipal Enterprises Set for Rewrite

OW2508181192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1643 GMT 25 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday at a government session in Moscow it was decided to submit the decree on the liquidation of municipal enterprises for complete re-drafting. The basis of the draft permits enterprises to wind up for environmental reasons or due to financial and economic default. The decision to liquidate may be taken by one of the city's governing bodies, or by the financial or tax inspectorate.

Deputy Premier and Chairman of the Moscow Stock Committee Y. Andreyev, who announced the decree, pointed out that this was "not a mechanistic measure, but a quite healthy means of lifting the capital's enterprises out of crisis." The draft concerned only the city's state industrial enterprises.

During the course of discussions, the project was subjected to severe criticism. A particularly strong airing was given to the idea that the speedy liquidation of enterprises could lead to future cuts in consumer goods production. The speakers also underlined the fact that a good mechanism currently exists for the administrative side of closing down enterprises, but not for the economic side.

On summing up, the capital's Mayor, Yuriy Luzhkov, pointed out that the current draft of the decree does not deal adequately with the task set before it. Before closing down an enterprise, it is necessary to think, first of all, about how it can be assisted; and to take into consideration what losses are being made by other enterprises with economic ties with it.

Yeltsin 'Defamatory' Statement on Coupist Scored

PM2608112192 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Aug 92 p 4

[Letter from L. Belomestnykh, attorney for V. Varennikov, plus editorial office postscript: "Attorney's Protest"]

[Text] The campaign of inhuman persecution of General V. Varennikov, hero of the Patriotic War and prisoner in "Matrosskaya Tishina," who was arrested last year in connection with the August events on the supreme order of Gorbachev, shows no sign of abating. In his hastily written foreign-currency-earning bestseller *The August Coup*, Gorbachev insulted and calumnied this honored veteran.

This clearly was not enough. The basest aspersions have now been cast. Last Friday the Russian president told the whole world at a press conference that Varennikov had shouted on the telephone during a conversation (true, it is not known with whom—L.V.) conducted from Kravchuk's office in Kiev at the time: Why has Yeltsin not been shot yet?.

I must state with full awareness of my responsibility that there is no such information, nor could there be, contained in the criminal case material. This new slander is unworthy of the president of the country and is designed to inflame passions and denigrate and demoralize my client. It is clear that such insinuation benefits some people in the entourage of the president, who has an interest in prolonging the investigation, while he himself, unfortunately, has not found the time over the year to hear out the attorneys.

I regard Boris Yeltsin's defamatory statement as a flagrant violation of the principle of the presumption of innocence and as manifest pressure on the organs of justice and public opinion, and I voice my firm protest at it and demand a meeting with the president of the Russian Federation.

[Signed] L. Belomestnykh, attorney for A. Varennikov. [Belomestnykh ends]

The PRAVDA editorial office also possesses other material from the public and official attorneys for "Matrosskaya Tishina" prisoners involved in the case of the State Committee for the State of Emergency, notably a well-argued dissenting opinion by Pavel Krayniy, attorney for O.S. Shenin.

More on 'Reform' Group's Press Conference

PM2108140392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Aug 92 First Edition p 2

[Aleksandr Linkov report: "Winter Just Around the Corner: Correct Course Chosen in August"]

[Text] S. Yushenkov, L. Gurevich, N. Vorontsov, V. Sheynis, P. Filippov, and S. Kovalev, representatives of the "Reform" parliamentary group, have held a news conference at which they summed up the development of events in the country since August 1991.

The speakers stressed that the "Reform" group both supported and still supports the chosen course of reform. But it reserves the right to constructive criticism. It now sees two mistakes on the government's part. These are its failure to provide extensive information about the reforms being implemented and the lack of a political support structure outside parliament.

V. Sheynis thinks that support among the masses must be sought by rallying democratic forces. In particular, in cooperation with "Democratic Russia" and "Civic Union" on questions of crucial significance for the implementation of reforms.

In N. Vorontsov's opinion, the fact that, while having a correct strategic policy, Gaydar's team does not have solutions to tactical tasks should be added to the above miscalculations.

Serious concern was also voiced in connection with the fact that in the past year only the leadership elite has been changed. A great deal has remained as it was. Millions of people have not become owners. Parliament is becoming more and more conservative—plenty of former communists have joined it as a result of the last two rotations.

What does the parliamentary group really have to its credit? S. Yushenkov thinks that it has proved possible thanks to its members' persistence to persuade the president of the inadvisability of holding a referendum on the fate of the Congress of People's Deputies and on appointing Ye. Gaydar as government chairman. It has other things to its credit. Plenty of prominent scientists and experts have been enlisted in work. In particular, a number of proposals have been formulated with regard to increasing the Supreme Soviet's role. For instance, it has been proposed that some of the Congress' functions be transferred to it and that the membership of parliament be broadened by including permanent deputies. The parliamentary group proposes to examine these and other questions at the fall Supreme Soviet session. And the speakers think that the "political fall" promises to be a hot one.

Civic Union Censures Government Over Abkhazia

LD2608132392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0958 GMT 26 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow August 26 TASS—The Civil Union—a political parties' bloc in "constructive opposition" to the Russian Government—has censured the cabinet for an "unjustified passivity" with regard to developments in Abkhazia.

The Political Council of the Civil Union adopted a statement at its meeting on Tuesday, calling for "an immediate end to combat operations in Abkhazia, a withdrawal of troops from there, the restoration of legitimate power bodies" and urging all the sides concerned to immediately sit down at the negotiating table.

The Civil Union comprises three major Russian parties: The People's Party of Free Russia, the Democratic Party of Russia and the All-Russia Union Obnovlenie (Renewal). Among Civil Union leaders are Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, Democratic Party Chairman Nikolay

Travkin, and Arkadiy Volskiy, president of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs.

A communique circulated today has it that the Political Council of the Civil Union also supported the initiative proposed by President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan "to form, in place of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), a new union of states with closer ties and mutual obligations". The Political Council suggested that this matter be discussed soon in the Governments and Parliaments of CIS countries.

The Civil Union came out in defence of the rights of ethnic minorities in newly independent states. "Many regions of the former Soviet Union become zones of disaster for ethnic minorities, primarily Russian-speaking ones, where even the basic right of the individual—the right to life—is not ensured", the Political Council's statement observes.

The Civil Union suggests that all independent states, as the first step towards an end to discrimination, recognise the existing international documents on the rights of the individual and of national minorities, conclude agreements on the politico-legal defence of national minorities, including the granting of citizenship without restrictive qualifications and introduce dual citizenship.

Government's Economic Reform Conference Summarized

PM2608142192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Aug 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Vasiliy Kononenko report: "Russian Administration Heads Concerned at Expiry of Their Powers"]

[Text] For Russia's economy to be able to surmount the crisis, it is necessary to implement reforms more quickly in the provinces. This thought dominated the government's 24 August working conference, in which leaders of the republics within the Russian Federation, heads of local administrations, directors of state enterprises, and private entrepreneurs participated.

It was stated at the conference that the present crisis is linked to the disorderly nature of the monetary and financial system, the collapse of economic ties, monopolism, and the lack of a competitive environment. This is felt particularly keenly in many oblasts and regions of Russia. The most important task now is to shift the center of gravity of the reforms to the provinces. The appropriate legislative, normative base for this already exists, and there are many examples where enterprising farm leaders have been able, under the existing conditions, to avoid social tension in collectives.

I. Abdrakhmanov, head of the Territories' Socioeconomic Development Department in the Russian Federation Government, emphasized in an interview with IZVESTIYA's correspondent that, judging by information from the provinces and as a result of trips to remote parts of Russia, it is possible to draw this main conclusion: The reform is under way in the provinces, and people have relatively calmly overcome the shock measures associated with price liberalization. To date approximately 500,000 private entrepreneurs and farmers have successfully set up business in various oblasts and regions of Russia, producing goods and food and not engaging in buying for resale.

In Penza Oblast, for example, the entrepreneur Kuznetsov has his own fur farm with approximately 10,000 wild animals. The successes of certain state enterprises are still more impressive. Thus, the shareholding principle of management has been introduced successfully at Saratov Aviation Plant. The enterprise has been split into independent production units, which not only ensure production of the end product—aircraft—but also invest the money earned in the creation of private enterprises under their own roof. There is and will be no unemployment there, I. Abdrakhmanov emphasized. He said that private enterprise is developing unevenly, but everywhere. There are already 400 private owners even in Chukotka.

It was stated at the conference, however, that a steep increase in the number of unemployed is expected in Russia as a whole by year's end as a result of the bankruptcy of enterprises. They could amount to 2 to 3 percent of the entire able-bodied population. As regards problems that are holding up the development of market structures in the provinces, there is a whole slew of them: poor material and technical supplies, particularly to private owners, difficulties in bank transactions, and the imperfect nature of the normative base for land reform.

The following examples were cited: An entrepreneur did the rounds, trying to obtain credit at any rate of interest, but no one gave him any money; it is extremely difficult for private farmers to buy seeds and tools and to arrange veterinary services for animals; the rates for taxes and credit differ exponentially for state enterprises and private producers. The administration heads in turn drew attention to their own problem: In accordance with a decision of the Congress of People's Deputies, their powers run through the end of the year. They feel that they are temporarily in power and find it hard to work for the long term. More rights must be given to the provinces in accordance with the federation treaty.

Summing up the conference, Acting Prime Minister Ye. Gaydar pointed to the need to strengthen the status of administration heads and described as one of the most urgent tasks the realization of the privatization program, which cannot be implemented without difficulties and conflicts. The conference participants adopted a number of recommendations, which include, in particular, drawing up regional privatization programs and the draft law "On Leveling Conditions of Economic Activity" within one month and preparing proposals on support for private enterprise.

Agricultural & Economic Issues

Rutskoy 'Concerned' Over Harvesting Campaign

OW2208164492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1545 GMT 22 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy told the Harvesting-1992 Committee on Saturday [22 August] that

he was seriously concerned about grain harvesting. By August 17, 8.3 million tonnes of grain had been put in storehouses, but at least 58 million tonnes were still on the threshing-floor.

And yet, the vice-president does not consider the situation to be hopeless. In experts' estimate, Russia can do without exports of grain, vegetables and other agricultural produce if a special programme is drafted, Aleksandr Rutskoy told IF [INTERFAX].

Special attention was paid to the problems facing livestock and poultry farms which experience a dire shortage of fodder.

Government Approves 1993 Structural Policy

LD2708121192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1117 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Podyapolskiy]

[Text] Moscow August 27 TASS—The Russian Government today discussed and approved on the whole the concept of its structural policy for the year 1993. The concept drafted by the Russian economics minister aims to define the scale, forms, stages and specific methods of government support for one or another economic sector.

According to the concept, the Government will give priority to the fuel and energy complex, food production, transport and conversion.

As for the fuel and energy complex, priority will be given to the maintenance of its vital support systems, the boosting oil extraction and the securing of necessary exports. In the area of food production, government targets the easing of tension on the food market and the prevention of further decline in consumption.

The transportation system will focus on developing seaports and replenishing the fleet of means of transportation that are now in short supply.

In the field of conversion, the government intends to switch from curbing military production to a large-scale production of consumer goods.

Shumeyko on Low Foreign Investment in Economy

LD2708082692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0814 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow August 27 TASS—"Accusations against the Russian Government that it takes the cue from the International Monetary Fund are groundless," Russian First Vice-Premier Vladimir Shumeyko told ITAR-TASS. "This is absolutely untrue. It is wrong to believe that we are rasing our investment policy only on recommendations of the International Monetary Fund," he added. Shumeyko said the IMF representatives, with whom he had negotiated, did not put forth any preconditions.

"It is another matter that there has been nothing but talk so far," Shumeyko said, noting that foreign investments in the Russian economic [as received] did not exceed one billion U.S. dollars so far.

"We are told," he explained, "that it is risky to invest in the Russian economy, because, as claimed by foreigners, we have no corresponding legal provisions. But this is not right. The capital of foreign investors is sufficiently protected by our legislation."

Shumeyko mentioned in this connection the law on business activity, which makes no distinction between Russian and foreign industrialists.

The vice-premier believes the stumbling block lies elsewhere: are foreign businessmen interested in developing our industry and do they want to give us access to the world market? This is the main point. "Judging by their unwillingness to invest in the Russian economy, the answer can be only negative," Shumeyko believes.

Energy Official on Need for Foreign Investment

LD2108215292 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1810 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Text] Without foreign investments it is hard to solve the problems of Russia's power engineering and above all prevent oil extraction from decline. This has been told to journalists by Andrey Konoplyannik, the deputy minister of energy and fuel of Russia.

There are three priority plans to attract foreign investments to national power engineering: Short-term, medium-term, and long-term priority plans. The short-term project envisages the restoration of the unoperational fund of wells, totalling more than 25,000 units. The second project is to involve foreign firms in developing the deposits that have already been explored but have not been exploited. Returns can be expected within three to five years. And the third plan, designed for eight to 10 years, provides for involving foreign firms in the exploration and subsequent development of new oil fields and major deposits.

Foreign investors, with their equipment, technology and specialists, will restore wells and will get part of additionally extracted oil as compensation. But there is a more preferable alternative to arrange credit lines to purchase equipment that national experts will use themselves to restore the wells that are being wasted.

The Russian Government has adopted a decision according to which the joint ventures registered before January of 1992 do not repay on export tariffs until they achieve solvency. Contracts have been signed with 1,500 foreign firms to develop 5000 oil wells. Joint ventures to explore and develop oil deposits have been set up in the Republic of Komi, in the Archangel region, in Tatarstan, in the Tyumen region, and elsewhere in Russia.

In the words of the energy and fuel minister, this country has enough offers to invest in the fields. The tasks facing the oil industry could be solved only through cooperation with foreign firms.

Trade Experts Oppose Pro-West Orientation

OW2108140992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1318 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondents A. Borodin, I. Porshnev and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The one-sided shift in economic and political priorities in favor of industrialized Western countries runs counter to Russia's interests. This conclusion is made in a report on the strategy of Russia's foreign trade, its targets, potentialities and program of actions in 1992-1993, written by experts from the Ministry of External Economic Relations.

"Though attractive in short-term respect, the pro-Western orientation fails to take into account a whole range of long-term factors; it will lead to Russia's inclusion in the world economic system in the capacity of permanent outsider", the report says. According to the experts, Russia should diversify its foreign trade. Today it must focus on contacts with the developing countries. But so far the evolution of Russia's foreign trade reflects opposite trends. Since 1991 the share of industrialized countries in Russia's foreign trade turnover has increased in exports from 36% in 1990 to 57% in the first 5 months of the current year, and in imports from 40% to 64% respectively. Almost 80% of today's joint ventures involve Western firms, and the main hopes for attracting foreign investment are also set on Western businesses.

The authors of the report believe that to maintain such orientation will lead to preserving the present shape of exports which focus on fuel, since a majority of consumer goods made in Russia are not competitive. Growing protectionism, competition and obvious opposition to high-technology exports from Russia are also in evidence. The industries which do not belong to the area of economic interests of Western countries, but make up the most competitive part of Russia's economy will be doomed to extinction.

If its foreign trade gets reoriented, Russia will be able to improve the mechanism for importing the minerals it is in need of.

According to the report, top-priority goals include the efforts to restore horizontal economic ties with CIS members, expand and renew trade with the former communist-bloc countries, arrange for and increase the exports of rare raw materials from African and Latin American nations. In third-world countries most of consumer goods are much cheaper as compared with similar products in industrialized countries, and their imports can satisfy Russia's basic requirements in such products to a considerable extent. Advanced technologies in the developing countries are also capable of satisfying the requirements of Russian enterprises to a considerable extent; they can be imported at cheaper prices or on the basis of settlements that do not involve payment in hard currency.

It should be kept in mind that for Russia the third world is a major place for marketing arms and military equipment, and these items account for over a half of all deliveries to the developing countries. Besides, the experts note that many developing nations are potential geopolitical allies, and therefore to bank on friendly relations largely with the West might have, and already has, negative consequences for Russia, a Eurasian state itself. These include a failure to recover the money owed to it, and the loss of possible marketing places as well as sources of credit that are potentially quite extensive and capable of replacing costly Western credits in the long run.

Economics Minister on Russian, CIS Debt Burden

AU2708112592 Duesseldorf HANDELSBLATT in German 26 Aug 92 p 3

["egl." report: "Creditors Apply Different Standards to Debts of CIS Countries"]

[Text] Alpbach—"We see that our Western creditors are applying an increasingly blatant double standard in the treatment of the successor states of the former Soviet Union on the question of debts," Russian Economics Minister Aleksey Andreyevich Nechayev complained in an interview for HANDELSBLATT during the Alpbach [village in Austria] conference.

"Russia is coming under strong fire because of overdue interest payments, while other CIS republics that do not meet any of their obligations under the agreements on the old debts get new loans from the West." In the upcoming new debt negotiations with public creditors in the "Paris Club" and Western business banks the Russian side will insist on "increasing" Western "pressure in the future so that the other CIS countries will also be obliged to pay interest on debts." The point is, on the one hand, that the other six republics that signed the agreement on the old debts "help Russia meet the financial obligations undertaken in the current agreement on the rescheduling of debts in time" by supplying foreign exchange as agreed. On the other hand, it is not possible that the republics that, like Ukraine, did not sign the agreement on old debts are courted with new Western government loans and the financing of projects, he said.

The Russian Republic is responsible only for about 61 percent of the recognized old debts, although, according to joint liability, each individual republic is liable for the full servicing of all of the former Soviet Union's old debts. "So far, however, the other republics have not made any contributions to Moscow for debt servicing, but new Western loans of several billions [currency not specified] have been promised to them," Nechayev said, "a circumstance that we can no longer accept politically or economically." One also gained the impression "that it was only with Russia that the IMF conducted really tough negotiations on membership conditions, whereas it accepted the other CIS republics, as it were, automatically."

Without giving specific figures on the current state of arrears on interest payments to Western creditors, Nechayev admitted "that the situation regarding interest payments to Western governments and banks is not so good. We are making efforts as best as we can, however,

and have to admit that, out of the little foreign exchange that is available, we pragmatically pay creditors where there is the greatest pressure, for example, to secure further the supply situation in critical fields."

"A lot is at stake for the Russian Government" in the upcoming round of negotiations on debts because without drastic relief from debts neither the currently attempted macroeconomic stabilization nor the restructuring of the Russian economy will be achieved, the economics minister said. Nechayev: "That is to say, we need massive relief from debts, either in the form of a very long-term extension of foreign debts or by a reduction of debts, for example, by transforming old debts into equity capital (debt for equity swaps). Only when we can get rid of the millstone of debt around our necks will we be able to make the progress that is politically required in the stabilization and restructuring process."

In the opinion of Moscow's economics minister, even though many details of the privatization for which Russia is striving still have to be discussed, he sees, in accordance with the example of Latin America, "great opportunities to combine the reduction of old debts with the creation of value in the Russian economy by means of conversion instruments [Umwandlungsinstrumente]." For the time being, however, Nechayev wants "to accept" the participation of foreign investors by means of conversion instruments in the planned basic funds during the privatization process only "as an idea, not as an already mature plan."

Russia is already venturing the first steps on the road of "debt for equity swaps" by attempting to press Russian claims on states like Nigeria, Algeria, or Libya. Nechayev admits, however, that one should not entertain much hope that it will still be possible to collect significant amounts of the former Soviet Union's total debts receivable, which have a face value estimated at $100 billion—two-thirds of it for military supplies—from "soft" debtors.

According to Nechayev, Moscow is trying to cope with the problem of the lack of internal foreign exchange deliveries and the exodus of capital connected with it. Because of the new regulation on internal foreign exchange deliveries by exporting firms (50 percent of export sales have to be converted into rubles at the "market rate"), the government hopes that more foreign exchange will be raised for the international servicing of debts. The economics minister believes "that under President Viktor Gerashchenko, who has returned, the central bank will get the banking system under better control." In this way, it will soon be possible to reduce blocked payments in the banking system, which often took months and were mostly due to technical reasons.

Much also depends on the efforts to achieve a fully functioning customs administration along the enormously long Russian border, above all with the Baltics, he said.

"If little Estonia suddenly appears as one of the world's biggest exporters of copper, we know that we have lost considerable duties for the state budget not paid on exports via this Baltic republic."

Yeltsin's economics minister does not want to confirm estimates by Western banks that the unrepatriated hard currency export revenues that enterprises of the CIS states are said to hold in the Western banking system are valued at double-digit billions. "Without an opportunity to prove such figures, we have also heard that the latest estimates by the banks are even higher and meanwhile do not amount to $14 billion, but $20 billion."

Asked about the implementation of the $24 billion relief package approved by the heads of state and government at the Munich world economic summit, Nechayev made the following point: "By the end of the year, about $6 billion of the $24 billion will probably be implemented. That will probably be the actual amount out of the funds that were promised, including, for example, the first IMF tranche amounting to $1 billion. We have put the latter in the currency reserves. Or there are loans that concern supplies by Western exporters that were contracted for and specifically implemented."

Nechayev, who negotiated with FRG Economics Minister Moellemann on the concrete basis of the project of the special Hermes [export loan insurance company] limit, estimates that the German supplies resulting from it will amount to "DM3 to 3.5 billion" by the end of 1992. He maintains the view that, "in consideration of its high debts, Russia can only raise credits guaranteed by the state for eastern German supplies if self-financing is impossible, for example, in the field of foodstuffs or urgently needed spare parts."

"One can see that the general supply situation in Russia has clearly improved this year by the fact that there are fewer and fewer lines in front of the state shops, more goods are distributed, and demand is clearly stimulated after the shocks of the price deregulation."

Banks Allowed To Deal With Foreign Counterparts

LD2708080892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1211 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Text] Moscow August 26 BUSINESS-TASS—Russian commercial banks which hold domestic licenses for performing hard currency transactions with the right to open any number of reciprocal accounts (Nostro and Loro accounts) in foreign banks, have been granted the right to establish direct corresponding links with the aim to open such accounts with six foreign banks in the main convertible currencies.

The commercial banks are not required to notify the Central Bank of Russia about the opening of such accounts. The banks are also entitled to open accounts in other currencies to meet the needs of their clients at their own discretion.

The permission concerns banks which earlier had Central Bank licenses to open a limited number of correspondent accounts in foreign banks.

In addition to the above-listed banks, Russian commercial bank are now permitted to establish correspondent relations with the Moscow Popular Bank (London and Singapore), Airbank (Paris), Ost-West Handelsbank (Frankfurt, Main), Monau Bank (Vienna) and the East-West United Bank (Luxembourg).

Economist Views Fall in Production, Exports

LD2108220692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0524 GMT 19 Aug 92

[Report on remarks by Valeriy Babintsev, academic secretary of the Supreme Economic Council, at a conference of city government and economic leaders in Moscow by program host Yelena Platonova; from the "Business Chronicle" program; date not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Platonova] The fact of the disastrous fall in commodity production in Moscow was noted by the participants in a conference of the capital's government with heads of enterprises and also commercial, bank, and exchange structures. It was noted that the rate of fall in production, compared with last year, in the first half-year was 24.6 percent. An increase in official and unofficial unemployment was noted.

Russia's national income in the January-July period, compared with the same period last year, was down by approximately 18 percent. This was reported by Valeriy Babintsev, academic secretary of the Supreme Economic Council. In his opinion, the government decision on urgent measures to improve dealings had not brought the expected results.

[Babintsev] "The mutual liability of enterprises by the month of July had reached 3.2 trillion rubles [R], which proved to be virtually comparable with the volume of industrial production in the first half-year."

[Platonova] Prices for goods and services increased tenfold and, as a result, there was a drop in the living standards of the population, Babintsev stressed. Thus, according to official statistics, about half the citizens of Russia at the moment have incomes below the minimum acceptable level.

[Babintsev] "Liability for payment of wages to the population amounted to R222 billion at the beginning of July of this year."

[Platonova]: Assessing Russia's socio-economic position for the first half-year of 1992, Valeriy Babintsev noted a continuing slump in industrial production and social tension in the agrarian and power complexes, as well as a reduction in the extraction of energy sources, the main export commodity.

[Babintsev] "The shortage of financial resources in the fuel and energy complex possibly threatens in the very near future a stoppage in the work of these enterprises, which may lead to complete economic disintegration."

[Platonova] Used-up basic assets and low wages determine the low profitability of enterprises and their lack of competitiveness at a world level.

[Babintsev] "In the first half of the current year turnover in foreign economic activity was down by approximately 30 percent. In the January-July period of this year, Russia's exports amounted to $15.4 billion, down by 35 percent compared with last year."

[Platonova] In Valeriy Babintsev's opinion, the only way out of the situation that has been created for the country is foreign investment in the Russian economy. At the same time, he believes it would be more rational to invest capital in those regions that already have well-prepared investment programs.

Illegal Exports of Raw Materials Combated

OW2708112392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1007 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Criminal groups engaged in illegal exports of strategic raw materials operate in the territory of Russia. This was disclosed by a spokesman for the Russian Security Ministry Andrey Chernenko at a Moscow briefing. By now in the process of operation Trawl the security forces have confiscated 9,000 tons of metals from Russia, including 1,500 tons of non-ferrous and rare-earth metals, 604,000 tons of oil and oil products, 2,000 cubic meters of saw timber and chemicals worth $20 million.

The spokesman described the scale of smuggling as bewildering. He said most of the raw materials are smuggled to the Baltic countries and some of the cargoes are escorted by armed guards.

The operation conducted by the Security Ministry will continue till the end of the year. It has already saved the country 5 billion rubles. The budget of the ministry for this year is 6 billion rubles.

Ministry Briefing on Oil Industry Corruption

LD2508123592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1117 GMT 25 Aug 92

[By CRIME-PRESS correspondent Yuriy Soltys for TASS]

[Text] Moscow August 25 TASS—Foreign businessmen have to pay additionaly two dollars per tonne of export oil in bribes to Russian officials. Within a year this amounts to 100 million dollars which wind up in foreign banks, journalists were told at a briefing in the Russian Federation's Interior Ministry here today.

The contraction of oil production amounts has brought about an unprecedented scope of corruption and various abuses in the marketing of oil products. A substantial role in this respect is being also played by some commercial entities which have ample spare cash to bribe officials.

For example, leading officials of the Novo-Kuybyshev oil processing plant were arrested recently. Making use of their official position, they unlawfully sent 2,000 tonnes of

petrol to Murmansk for the Nomo-Ltd firm and received two cars in exchange for that.

Russian fuel also flows abundantly to the newly independent Baltic countries, circumventing the law and customs regulations. The Pytalovo station master in Pskov region alone managed to send 15,000 tonnes of fuel in 180 railway tank-cars to Latvia within two months of this year. His "services" were lavishly paid for. He received 500,000 roubles and a Zhiguli car.

According to forecasts by Interior-Ministry experts, another flare-up of crime in the marketing of fuel is expected soon.

It was emphasised at the briefing that the forthcoming privatisation of filling stations will entail a steep rise in petrol prices. In all probability, the transfusion of fuel from state-run to commercial establishments will become a widespread phenomenon, which will edge fixed-priced fuel out of the market. So, Russian motorists will have to brace themselves for more expenses on fuel once again.

Commission To Investigate Ventures

PM2108135792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Aug 92 First Edition p 3

[ITAR-TASS report: "Investigation of Joint Enterprises"]

[Text] The Russian Government Commission for Financial and Legal Supervision and Struggle Against Corruption intends to start investigating the activity of joint enterprises in the oil sector.

In the opinion of Commission Chairman Mikhail Gurtovoy, this investigation is designed to ensure "the incorrupt implementation of the Russian president's decree on trade in strategic materials, which makes provision for major state supervision, in particular, of the oil trade." Following the results of the investigation, the Russian Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations will be given recommendations on questions pertaining to the registration of joint enterprises on Russian territory involved in selling Russian oil abroad.

Figures Through Jul Show Economic Decline

OW2608225092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1800 GMT 26 Aug 92

[From the "INTERFAX Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Production of manufactured product continued its downward trend for the period January-July, slipping faster in July. The Russian Goskomistat said indicators are off 14.8% from last year.

PRODUCTION LAGS SEEN IN ALL BRANCHES OF INDUSTRY. However, the drop in non-ferrous metallurgy and the food industry was most pronounced, constituting 24% and 22%, respectively.

The largest drop was seen in Moscow and the Russian Federation republics Marii-El, Karachaevo-Cherkesii, Dagestan, Chechen-Ingushetia, and the Kamchatsk region, where production fell more than 25% during the first seven months.

The production for the first seven months of steel pipes, overhead electric cranes, freight cars, mineral fertilizer, polyvinylchlorides, window glass, construction grade brick, refrigerators, radio receivers, vegetable oil, flour, and groats has sunk below production for the whole of 1991.

HEATING INDUSTRY. The daily production of basic fuels in July was down 2% from June production. Oil production dropped 6.1 mn [million] tons (16%), natural gas fell 0.3 bn [billion] cubic meters (0.5%), and coal production was down 3.2 mn tons (11%) from last July. Since the beginning of the year oil extraction fell 37 mn tons (down 14% from the same period in 1991), gas was down 0.8 bn cubic meters (0.2%), and coal was off 5.5 mn tons (3%).

There were 1.7 thousand undeveloped oil wells at the beginning of 1992, or 1.2% of those in operation. The lag in mining was brought on by interrupted shipments of modern oil equipment, whose production is constantly falling. Thus, for the first half of 1992 the production of drill pumps was down 40% from last year, and pump installations for seam fracturing down 25%.

The production of electricity for the period January to July was off 3% from the same period last year, production at thermal stations fell 7%.

The reduction in gas production (largely due to the drop in the production of associated petroleum gas) cannot compensate for the fall in oil and coal production. Technical difficulties and weather conditions are holding up the development of the natural gas field on the Yamal Peninsula—Russia's main gas reserve.

A decrease in the production of raw hydrocarbons resulted in a 9% drop gasoline production and a 7% decrease in diesel fuel production from indicators for the period January-July 1991.

METALLURGY. The daily production of rolled products dropped 10% in July from June production, steel pipe production was off 5%. For the period January to July the production of rolled products fell 4.9 mn tons (15%), pipe production was down 1.6 mn tons (25%). The non-ferrous metal industry registered drops in the output of aluminum, magnesium and magnesium alloys, copper, nickel, lead, zinc, and titanium. For the first seven months of this year 22% less rolled product was produced from low-alloyed steel.

The liabilities of metallurgy firms for shipped product grew 1.5 times in June, reaching 361 bn rubles as of July 1st.

MACHINE BUILDING. The drop in the production of all main types of product for the period January to July 1992 was much greater than production lags last year. Production of excavators, trailers, tractors, and combines was off 25-36%, while the production of rolling bearings, truck cranes, and motor graders fell 14-19%.

Monopolies like Uralvagonzavod, which produces 65% of all freight cars, and Rostselmash, which turns out 73% of all combines, produced one fourth less than last year.

Experts from the Russian Goskomistat predict that production by defense complex firms will dip 19%, and military product will be cut in half from last year's figures. The production of civilian product is expected to increase by 9%.

CHEMICAL INDUSTRY. The daily production of the principle raw products in July—synthetic ammonia and sulfuric acid—fell 15-17% from the previous month and hit a low for the year. The production lag from last year's indicators rose to 23% and 18%, respectively. As a result, the same trend was seen in the production of mineral fertilizers; 1.3 mn tons less fertilizer was produced than last year (a drop of 16%).

The situation in production of one of the most important types of raw material for the textile industry - chemical fiber and thread - did not change for the better. A shortage of raw material and irregular shipments to Khimvolokno firms caused production to fall by 30 thousand tons for January to July (9%). The production of "Spandex" fiber was off 49%, and viscose fiber, which closely resembles natural fiber, was down 12%.

TIMBER AND WOOD PULP INDUSTRY. The downward tendency held on in July in the production of all types of lumber products. The development of the industry continues to be hindered by the logging industry which is systematically reducing production. Since the beginning of the year industrial wood production was off 14 mn cubic meters, or 11%, from last year; production at firms of the Severoles, Eneseiles, Irkutsklesprom, Karellesprom, and Dallesprom concerns was down 16-21%.

The production of wood pulp and cardboard product fell—9% from last year, paper production was down 18%, with newsprint down 34%, and copper printing paper off 58%.

Goskomistat experts predict that the downward trend will continue until the end of the year in industrial wood production, which will widen the disproportion between the logging and timber industries. The 1992 production of industrial wood, timber, and paper will be down 11-16% from last year.

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS. The lag in production intensified in July: the average daily output of primary construction materials was behind June production and substantially less than production for July of last year. For the first seven months of 1992 the production of corrugated asbestos board was off 4%, asbestos cement pipe - 19%, asbestos - 9%, and window glass - 10%.

The drop in cement production - the industry's main raw component—continued: daily production in July fell to 161 thousand tons, which was a drop of 93% from the previous month's production and 77% from last year's production. For Janaury to July cement output was down 7 mn tons (15%), a drop which exceeds the total for 1991. Experts expect the total drop in production for the year to be 11 mn tons or 15% from last year's output.

A sharp drop (18-46%) was seen in the production of light metal constructions, steel wall and roofing panels, constuctions from alumInum alloys and prefabricated reinforced cement.

Official Interviewed on Antimonopoly Committee

PM2608092892 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 25 Aug 92 p 3

[Vladislav Monakhov report on interview with Leonid Bochin, chairman of the Russian Antimonopoly Committee; place, date of interview not given: "You Should Not Be a Bull in a China Shop"]

[Text] You should not be a bull in a china shop. That is what Leonid Bochin, the new chairman of Russia's Antimonopoly Committee, thinks. He says that the task of the State Committee for Antimonopoly Policy and Support of New Economic Structures is not to "stifle" all monopolist enterprises indiscriminately, but to promote the creation of a competitive market.

When I last wrote about the work of the "antimonopolists" (ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI No. 1 for April 1992), I cited something that the U.S. scientist Leontief had said when he figuratively compared a market economy with a schooner in whose sails the wind of personal interest blows, while the helm is in the hands of the government.

But either the wind dropped or shoals appeared in the ship's path and the crew members cannot hear their captain's voice, so our "schooner's" sails have markedly drooped and it will not reach the market "shore"!

In order to deepen the channel and adjust the course—the course of economic reform—new people are now being brought onto the captain's bridge. The command "all hands on deck" also applied to the 43-year old academic and economist Leonid Bochin: By decree of the president he was recently appointed chairman of the Russian State Committee for Antimonopoly Activity and Support of New Economic Structures.

A "difficult lot has befallen" Leonid Arnoldovich. The committee does not only supervise observance of antimonopoly legislation and fight to develop enterprise and competition, but also defends Russian businessmen through the prestige and force of the law from illegal actions by organs of state management, ministries, and departments.

"These state structures, which had gotten accustomed to their unlimited power over the economy, are reluctant to surrender it voluntarily," Bochin told me. "Who likes to be attacked where they are most vulnerable?"

The Antimonopoly Committee and its actions, to paraphrase the immortal Stalinist Lev Mekhlis, are not very well liked by those who are checked out and by those who... receive the reports about this. Is that not why the Russian Supreme Soviet adopted an amendment to the Law "On

Competition and Limiting Monopolist Activity on Commodity Markets" last December, implying that the State Committee for Antimonopoly Policy and Support of New Economic Structures was accountable to parliament?

The Russian Constitutional Court deemed this decision unlawful and transferred the Antimonopoly Committee to the jurisdiction of the supreme executive bodies... Since they are directed by the president, that is his prerogative.

Nevertheless the president's decree removing Valeriy Chernogorodskiy from the post of chairman of the State Committee for Antimonopoly Policy and Support of New Economic Structures and appointing his former deputy Leonid Bochin in his stead was not to the liking of parliamentary leaders who thought that "this would not benefit cooperation and reforms."

"The Supreme Soviet had to consent to my appointment," Leonid Arnoldovich explained, "I hope that this consent will be forthcoming. We will have to do a lot of work with parliamentarians. And professionally prepare them to tackle such specific problems as market relations. I think that they are capable of perceiving our positions. They were after all involved in Russia's obtaining laws that reflect the market thrust of our economy. Such key laws, for instance, as the Laws 'On Competition...' and 'On Defense of Consumers' Rights.'

"We succeeded in forming capable territorial directorates within a short period. There are now more than 90 of them. The main antimonopoly work is being carried out there, at local level."

[Monakhov] Leonid Arnoldovich, our country was recently visited by Wolfgang Kartte, head of the German antimonopoly office. He thinks that relations between his office and the government are always tense. If there is not this tension, that means that the "antimonopolists" are doing a bad job. If the government praises them, the "antimonopolists" are doing something wrong... How are your committee's relations with the Russian Government developing?

[Bochin] First, the Germans call this an anticartel commission. Second, our working conditions are strikingly different from the Germans' conditions. Since it is clearly premature to talk about a competitive market in Russia.

As for our relations with the government, they are very close. It would be impossible to set up competitive structures on the commodity markets without cooperating with them.

[Monakhov] So, there is no friction?

[Bochin] Why do you say that? Of course there is friction. If the government's resolutions and ordinances and ministry and department decisions run counter to the norms and articles of antimonopoly legislation, we can appeal against their wrongful actions. No one holds us by the hand.

[Monakhov] Are there examples of that?

[Bochin] Yes, as many as you like. In particular, one government ordinance dealing with problems of the fuel and energy complex vested the ministry with powers of authority over economic entities. We wrote a letter to the government asking for the provisions of the document to be changed and the ministry stripped of its "nonmarket" powers. This amendment was made, albeit somewhat belatedly.

We are trying to prevent the government's adopting such documents. I am sure that the Russian president's decree that has already been drafted will help us in this. This is the new Statute on the Antimonopoly Committee. I hope that the draft decree is already on Yeltsin's desk and that he will sign it soon.

[Monakhov] What is the main purpose of this document?

[Bochin] Not to treat the ailment, but to prevent it. [Bochin ends]

...I have before me the draft of Yeltsin's new decree. It does not yet bear Boris Nikolayevich's signature, but you can "sense" his handiwork in the tough style and peremptory nature of the text. Ministries and departments are asked to shape sectoral demonopolization programs within a specific, short period in order to coordinate state policy for demonopolization of the Russian economy.

The decree lays down that draft government ordinances and resolutions and decisions adopted by ministries, departments, and the local administration relating to the reorganization and elimination of economic entities in cases stipulated in the "Law on Competition and Restricting Monopolist Activity on Commodity Markets" and the granting of privileges and advantages or imposition of restrictions for individual economic structures on questions pertaining to the legitimate interests of consumers are to be coordinated with the Antimonopoly Committee.

No important official document slips past Bochin now. Before the draft document falls on the "top man's" desk, it first has to pass through the "filter" of the State Committee for Antimonopoly Policy and Support of New Economic Structures, which decides whether this document conforms with antimonopoly legislation.

"What are we up to?" I asked Bochin, "Why are we delaying the dismemberment of mammoth enterprises?"

He shook his head doubtfully.

[Bochin] We cannot do as Caesar did: I came, I saw, I conquered! Once and for all right away. The mammoth structure of the national economy that has developed in Russia requires a competent, well-considered, expert approach! Otherwise we will be behaving like a bull in a china shop.

I think it is pointless to demonopolize ZIL, VAZ, or the Chelyabinsk tractor plant. Should we take a "Druzhba" power saw and saw them into pieces? Will there be more automobiles as a result of this "sawing up"?

Before doing anything, you have to ask yourself the question: Can our actions help a competitive environment emerge or not?

[Monakhov] The second part of your committee's title sounds promising: "...and Support of New Economic Structures." But, according to foreign entrepreneurs, taxes in Russia are quite insane and are stifling enterprise. There are even taxes on investments!..

[Bochin] Yes, the financial system has not as yet been regulated. The government is waging a desperate struggle against hyperinflation and attempting to strengthen the ruble to ensure that it becomes the sole means of payment on Russian territory. The next stage should be to formulate recommendations to differentiate tax conditions for both foreign and national investors on those commodity markets where they are working.

We need competition at all costs!

[Monakhov] There's evidently no point in discussing all this until private ownership is introduced.

[Bochin] A move to the market in the state sector of the economy is absurd. One of the main tasks now is to reduce to a minimum the burden of the economy's state sector. It is not even a matter of ministries as such having to disappear. They must be relieved of economic management functions. Their function is to act as state regulators, state structures that formulate the policy of creating competition on the market of which they are in "charge."

[Monakhov] The Russian Government Resolution "On State Regulation of Prices and Tariffs for the Output and Services of Monopolist Enterprises in 1992-1993" was recently published. Was your committee involved in preparing this document?

[Bochin] It was most directly involved. The industrial mammoths have finally officially had their "wings clipped," depriving them of the opportunity to force up prices for their output and services, plucking them out of nowhere. Penalties will now be employed against those who violate state pricing discipline; this will involve a sum being paid into the budget equivalent to the amount that the price (tariff) was overstated and a fine of the same amount.

[Monakhov] The Antimonopoly Committee's duties include fighting corruption among state officials...

[Bochin] That's right. That is why we comply strictly with Article 9 of the Law "On Competition" which prohibits all officials from engaging in any commercial activity. But the temptation is great, so to speak!..

[Monakhov] Leonid Arnoldovich, a tremendous amount of federal property has now been handed over to commercial structures. What is your view of this?

[Bochin] Of course, I feel negative about it. Many former state enterprises that have become commercial enterprises do not pay the treasury a kopek for the use of "their" premises! Federal and municipal property must be made available to commercial structures, including foreign firms, on a competitive basis. Not behind the scenes, but openly and publicly.

[Monakhov] What are our chances, our prospects of competing with Western business on an equal footing? Do our native Savvam Morozovs still have a long way to go to catch up with them?

[Bochin] Well, the entrepreneurial group in Russia is still frail. It must be "cemented" together by all the means available to the state.

[Monakhov] Maybe the West will help us. If only with advice on how to support our emergent national business?

[Bochin] We are receiving that kind of help. From the outset we became "infected" with the ideas of kindred Western antitrust, anticartel organs.

In the United States, for instance, such services have been in existence for more than 100 years. Something in the order of 150 (!) laws have been adopted there to protect consumers' rights. The figure is 50 for Japan. There are, for instance, laws on frozen meat products, on pesticides...

[Monakhov] And here?

[Bochin] The Law "On Protecting Consumers' Rights" envisages that all legal relationships regulating cooperation between organs of management, economic entities, and the consumer as an individual and a nonprofessional will be adopted at a level no lower than a government decision.

God grant that Russia may also become a "consumer society" one day. I would like to believe that it will soon straighten its shoulders and take its place alongside the other countries in civilized Europe.

Interim Measure To Curb Monopolies Dismissed

PM2408135992 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 21 Aug 92 p 1

[Ye. Anisimov report: "Government Employs Scare Tactics, but Monopolists Are Not Scared"]

[Text] The Russian Government has adopted a resolution "On State Regulation of Prices and Tariffs for Monopoly Enterprises' Output and Services in 1992-1993." This resolution is noteworthy in that limit prices and fixed prices will be set for enterprises' output and services regardless of their form of ownership.

You would have thought that we should rejoice: The pricing anarchy will come to an end and monopolists will have to curb their appetites... Regrettably, the road to Hell is paved with good intentions. When the state in the person of the official undertakes economic leadership, there are inevitably opportunities for officials to profit. Second, it is not very like the market to set the price at which the owner of an enterprise must sell his goods. This resolution could be viewed as an interim measure designed to curb former state enterprises since, as we know, all state enterprises are to become joint-stock companies in the fall. But... V. Neverov, head of the "Hermes" diversified concern and

head of the "Hermes-Soyuz" transnational company, commented on this resolution as follows:

"It is like children playing grown-ups' games: The government knows that there is antimonopoly legislation in the West and wants to introduce something like it in our country. But the legislation there forms a well-balanced, integrated system, while in our country we have loophole upon loophole instead. There is no doubt that enterprise directors (presidents of joint-stock companies—call them what you will) will bypass this resolution the day after it emerges. If they read it at all."

Decree on Employment Fund Allocations

LD2508190892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1700 GMT 25 Aug 92

[Text] In order to finance places engaged in providing employment in the third quarter of the current year, Russian President Boris Yeltsin has bound employers by decree to channel monthly 1 percent of the money allocated for paying wages and salaries to the state employment fund of the population [gosudarstvennyy fond zanyatosti naseleniya]. Public organizations composed of invalids and retirees, as well as establishments and organizations where invalids and retirees account for more than half of the work force, are exempt from these obligatory monthly payments.

Budget-Financed Workers To Get 50% Raise

PM2508093192 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 22 Aug 92 p 1

[Decree No. 895 of the RSFSR President "On Additional Measures To Improve the Pay of Workers at Budget-Financed Institutions and Organizations", dated Moscow, the Kremlin, 19 August 1992 and signed by RSFSR President B. Yeltsin]

[Text] In order to offset the rise in consumer prices and introduce sensible differentiation in the pay of workers at budget-financed institutions and organizations, I resolve:

1. To raise the wage rates and salaries of workers in budget-financed institutions and organizations by 50 percent.

This increase in wage rates and salaries is to be introduced for workers in education, the health service, culture, social protection of the population, and other budget-financed sectors as of 1 September 1992.

The increased wage rates and salaries are being brought up to the level previously set by adopted Russian Federation normative acts.

2. During the fourth quarter of 1992 the Russian Federation Government is to examine the issue of increasing the pay norms of servicemen and commanders in the light of the measures stipulated by Russian Federation Government Resolution No. 382 dated 6 June 1992 "On Increasing the Pay of Servicemen and Commanders."

3. The Russian Federation Ministry of Finance is to determine the procedure and sources for financing expenditure on the raise in wages stipulated by the present decree.

4. A package of measures is to be implemented to regulate differentiation in the levels of pay of workers in budget-financed institutions and organizations on the basis of the application of a unified wage rate system for pay.

The Russian Federation Government is to approve a unified wage scale system for pay, determine the procedure and terms for introducing it, ensure that preparatory work for the phased introduction of this measure is carried out in the fourth quarter of 1992 as sectors become ready for it, and find the necessary financial resources.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin
The Kremlin, Moscow
19 August 1992
No. 895

Media Issues

Latest Developments in IZVESTIYA Dispute

PM2708103992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Aug 92 Morning Edition p 2

[G. Charodeyev report: "Russian Fund Has Resolved To Appropriate IZVESTIYA and Is Thus Trying To Torpedo the Russian President's Instruction"]

[Text] When he signed the ordinance allocating property—in accordance with established procedure—to the IZVESTIYA newspaper publishing complex the Russian president clearly thought that he was resolving the protracted stifling problem surrounding freedom of expression. But there are people who wish to establish their own procedures and, literally within a day, F. Tabeyev, chairman of the Russian Federal Property Fund, issued an ordinance declaring that group to be the owner of the IZVESTIYA Publishing House. We print this ordinance in full, with a commentary by the deputy chairman of the State Committee for the Management of State Property.

Ordinance No 4, 24 August 1992, Moscow

In accordance with Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Resolution No 3333-1 "On the Newspaper IZVESTIYA," dated 17 July 1992, and the statute on the Russian Federal Property Fund, the Russian Fund assumes the exercise of the powers of owner in relation to possession of the federal property of the IZVESTIYA Publishing House pending confirmation of the statutes of the publishing house by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet as its founder.

[Signed] F.A. Tabeyev, chairman of the Russian Federal Property Fund

We asked P. Mostovoy, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for the Management of State Property, to comment on the ordinance.

[Mostovoy] Under Paragraph 15 of Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Resolution No 3020-1 "On the Demarcation of State Ownership in the Russian Federation," dated

27 December 1991, it is the Russian State Committee for the Management of State Property which enjoys the exclusive right to dispose of the property of the IZVESTIYA Publishing House.

Under Paragraph 2, Article 6, of the Law on Privatization the Russian Federal Property Fund can exercise powers as owner only in respect of enterprises the certificates of ownership to which have been transferred to the Fund by the Russian State Committee for the Management of State Property.

The Russian State Committee for the Mangement of State Property has transferred to the Russian Federal Property Fund no certificates of ownership relating to the property of the IZVESTIYA Publishing House. Therefore the claim by the chairman of the Russian Federal Property Fund that the Russian Fund "assumes the exercise of the powers of owner" has no legal basis.

From the editorial office: Apart from the issue of illegality, F. Tabeyev's ordinance raises at least one other issue: Does the claim by the chairman of the Russian Federal Property Fund not demonstrate here a right—obtained from no one knows where—to rescind the ordinance of the Russian president?

A meeting has been held at the Russian Parliamentary Center on Tsvetnoy Boulevard whose topic was described by its chairman as "How the Supreme Soviet resolution on the IZVESTIYA newspaper is being implemented." V. Lisin, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet commission to study the situation in the mass media, addressed Russian and foreign journalists.

In his statement Lisin gave a brief account of the history of the question and reported that on 25 August "he watched with great attention the television interview with Mr. Golembiovskiy, chairman of the IZVESTIYA editorial board limited liability company." The deputy observed that, regarding the question of IZVESTIYA, the Supreme Soviet is proceeding solely by legal means. According to him, Ruslan Khasbulatov had officially informed acting Government Chairman Yegor Gaydar the day before that the question of bringing the status of the "IZVESTIYA SOVETOV NARODNYKH DEPUTATOV SSSR" Publishing House into line with Russian Federation legislation was being studied in the Supreme Soviet. Given that the resolution of this question falls within the competence of the Supreme Soviet, Khasbulatov asked the government to refrain from making precipitate decisions. "But, as often happens here," the speaker stressed, "the right hand does not know what the left hand is doing."

Correspondents asked Lisin to talk about himself and to confirm or deny the persistent rumors of his appointment as chief editor of the newspaper IZVESTIYA SOVETOV NARODNYKH DEPUTATOV ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII. The deputy expressed surprise at the rumors and said "Who will do what and what will happen" is the prerogative of the Supreme Soviet Presidium. He described himself as a "career journalist," which made the journalists smile. They know that in the journalistic profession careerism is regarded as an activity as contemptible as bribe-taking.

IZVESTIYA Official Comments

LD2608135292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Report by unidentified announcer on IZVESTIYA situation, including recorded remarks by Vladimir Nadein, deputy editor in chief of IZVESTIYA, by telephone on 26 August]

[Text] The lawsuit over IZVESTIYA continues. In spite of the sensational decision of the Supreme Soviet about setting up another paper—IZVESTIYA SOVETA NARODNYKH DEPUTATOV—on the basis of and under the control of Parliament, on 22 August the president of Russia signed an instruction assigning the whole printing base to the newspaper-publishing complex in its present form.

In today's issue of ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, Nikolay Ryabov, chairman of the Russian Parliament Soviet of the Republic, claims that the president's instruction is illegal. The state cannot give away publishing houses to all and sundry. This is the title of his interview. Arguing this idea, Nikolay Ryabov cites a number of utterances by the heads of the IZVESTIYA paper, from which it follows that the paper's workforce has no relation to the publishing house. However, this is what Vladimir Nadein, deputy editor in chief of IZVESTIYA, told us on the phone today.

[Nadein] Ryabov, chairman of the Russian Parliament Soviet of the Republic, makes arbitrary use of quotations in order to prove ideas which cannot, on the whole, be proved; to prove that IZVESTIYA has nothing to do with its printing base. The printing base was set up right at the start in order to serve IZVESTIYA. It is one indivisible complex. As far as IZVESTIYA and its property is concerned, it indeed remains state property, and none of the journalists is making any claim to any special conditions other than those determined by law.

Making it into a concern—a joint stock company, privatization—all this will be done in exactly the same way as with any other enterprise. With the help of arbitrarily selected quotations, Ryabov is trying, in essence, to perform what is essentially just one function: to evict the IZVESTIYA newspaper from the building which was built specially for it. He says nothing about the basic reason but it is clear: it is a political problem connected with the desire to put the mass media under control and, first and foremost, under the control of Parliament or, more precisely, of the leadership of Parliament—or even more precisely, of Khasbulatov himself.

Nadein on Independent IZVESTIYA

PM2608114392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Aug 92 Morning Edition p 3

[Article by Vladimir Nadein: "Freedom Is Hard To Achieve"]

[Text] Exactly a year has elapsed since IZVESTIYA became independent. This year has been no better than we hoped and no worse than we expected. It has simply been different.

The newspaper which arose and matured under the impenetrable shroud of censorship discovered itself in an instant on the seven winds of the fine and cruel freedom which IZVESTIYA had never ceased to desire passionately, although it had never really known it.

Michael Dobbs, leader of the Moscow office of THE WASHINGTON POST, attended a 23 August general meeting which voted for the institution of a free IZVESTIYA. The U.S. correspondent published a long article on the dizzying succession of events 19-23 August the following day under the headline "Coup Within a Coup." The time claimed that the IZVESTIYA "coup" was organized far better than the Yanayev-Pavlov-Kryuchkov coup and therefore ended successfully.

Although my colleague Michael's article is full of facts, the main story reflected in the headline of his article is entertaining rather than accurate. The change in IZVESTIYA took place with such striking ease because the fruit had long since ripened.

Field of Marvels and Hard Virgin Land

The official awards set into the newspaper masthead. The constant reminder to the press of its true place as the devoted literary orderly in the party apparatus...

The appeal from Karl Marx to the workers of the world, repeated 15 times in the languages of the 15 union republics...

The party and state censorship which was illegal from the start but which right up to August survived all the victories of glasnost in the offices on the fifth floor of the editorial office...

The institutional power of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, always fictitious given the Central Committee's grip on power...

The lengthy and deliberately pointless title of "newspaper of the soviets of all levels" when the whole world knew it by the brief word IZVESTIYA...

The chief editor appointed by the Central Committee to spite the entire collective and involved in his own intrigues and lies...

On 22 August at 0900 hours this entire field of marvels still bloomed with double flowers. But on the same day of 22 August an hour later it disappeared forever.

But breaking is not the same as building. It was clear to us all that freedom is akin to work and responsibility and that henceforth now that we and our readers not longer have an importunate middleman, the whole responsibility is ours and no one else's.

IZVESTIYA's registration at the Ministry of Information, the election of a chief editor and editorial collegium, and the adoption of a new charter completed the newspaper's organizational structuring. But the hardest part of our creative work lay ahead. There was a tough check on the IZVESTIYA employees' professionalism. The reader of the renewed country had to be presented with a new newspaper which carefully preserved the identity and traditions of the 75-year-old IZVESTIYA.

The field of marvels became a hard virgin land.

Without Propaganda Cliches

The word "reserve" is invariably present in the technology of our venerable newspapers attached to antiquated technology.

Long and medium-sized articles which make up the basis of almost every issue are set up in good time as a reserve on the linotype machines. The depth of the furrow which the day of 23 August 1991 carved in the life of IZVESTIYA is borne out by the following fact: Not a single item from the enormous reserve put together before the day of our independence was published after 22 August. The three days of the putsch radically altered the country and correspondingly changed the newspaper to its very foundation.

It is not for us to judge how successful the quest has been. That is for the reader. We wanted to serve democracy and human rights. But whether we have been able to is for you to say. As Russians and patriots of Russia we sincerely respected the will and interests of all peoples of the former USSR. Whether the newspaper has succeeded in maintaining this balance of interests is not for us to judge either. We invariably defended the need for radical economic transformations but the country's path is chosen not by newspapers but by the people.

And to ensure that the people's choice was correct we strove to inform our readers honestly and objectively, without concealing our views but also without imposing propaganda cliches on anyone.

Rule by Telephone: It Is Dying but Not Surrendering

Everyone knows that throughout the seven communist decades our country's mass media were under the heel of the party apparatus. It is slightly less well known that the Central Committee generously and arbitrarily shared its shameless banning with the government, soviets, army, ministries, departments, public organizations, and trade unions. There was an enormous list of institutions which by lifting the telephone receiver could block the publication of any item not to their advantage.

The first days after August were catastrophic for the only recently omnipotent and all-penetrating rule by telephone. Occasionally there would be some crazy telephone call from a totally confused official who had returned from a vacation in some out of the way place or who was not sure what millennium it was outside.

But rule by telephone did not die out completely. Perhaps only President Yeltsin and his close entourage made no attempts to use their power to regulate published items.

The culmination of its renewed desires was the attempt by the Russian parliament to put an administrative bridle on IZVESTIYA.

In this long story there is so much that is fortuitous and personal that objective political interests somehow retreated into the shadows. The national-communist section of the deputies' corps would hardly have been able to impose on the Supreme Soviet leaders such a risky method of making decisions—a method fraught with the real danger of defeat—unless the latter had needed their support.

B.N. Yeltsin's ruling thwarted one more design of the opponents of freedom of speech. For several weeks in succession Tabeyev, a former first secretary of the Tatar CPSU Obkom for many years and a former ambassador to Afghanistan, intrigued fiercely for the IZVESTIYA publishing house's "voluntary" renunciation of its close ties with our newspaper.

The failed scenario presupposed an "initiative" from the publishing house leaders in making absurd but substantial property claims against the newspaper. Most likely Tabeyev did not know, could not know, that it was the closely, indivisible cooperation between the newspaper and the editorial office which for many years had produced a steady revenue of tens of millions of rubles a year.

But in the struggle to resurrect rule by telephone they are unstinting in their promises. On behalf of the Supreme Soviet Presidium Tabeyev promised the publishing house his lofty patronage, transfer to a free state budget, and a peaceful life for the publishing house at the taxpayers' expense.

Trying Is Not Torture

There is hardly any doubt that attempts to curb the mass media will be continued. Without fear of false prophesy it may be supposed that the next session of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet will begin with deputies' protests against the president's ruling on IZVESTIYA's property. And most likely the Constitutional Court will have to add to its agenda by examining the question of this ruling's compliance with the Russian president's constitutional powers.

The procommunist deputies will not be stopped by the fact that the ruling is of fundamental importance for the fate of the Russian press. It breaks the monopoly of the state as the only producer of printing services. It stresses the legality and expediency of uniting editorial offices with printing workers' collectives.

It is newspaper associations of this kind which dominate the entire civilized world. Printing workers, transport workers, and mechanics working for newspapers are regarded as members of the same collective as reporters and editors.

No less fundamental is the fact that the collectives united by common interests will have to rally together to survive in the market. The many millions of rubles which the Russian mass publications, including IZVESTIYA, received from the government this year are an enforced necessity, a debt paid for the former union government's unfulfilled guarantees that paper prices would remain unchanged.

Entering its second year of freedom, IZVESTIYA does not expect a peaceful time ahead. Although the cost of subscription to the newspaper has not risen as substantially as the cost of bread, transport, or vodka, readers will still need their full reserve of loyalty to the printed word to withstand not only the financial but also the psychological blow.

In the first year of our independence we did everything we could. By paying an additional 2.5 rubles for each copy we did not have to carry out a resubscription that would be devastating for many people. We cut back our needs to the minimum, economizing on what was essentially our only reserve—ourselves.

The difficulties of the first year have not brought disillusionment with freedom. They have spared us from illusions but have not reduced our resolve to make it a newspaper which will enjoy the reader's respect.

Deputy Lisin Remarks

OW2608144092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1352 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In the scandal over the newspaper IZVESTIYA Boris Yeltsin was put in a dubious position once again said Vladimir Lisin, Vice-Chairman of the Congress of Russian Deputies' Commission for the Media, as he was commenting on the president's latest decree on placing printing facilities at Izvestia's disposal. Lisin said, however, that Chairman of the Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov "has assumed a rather soft position and demonstrates readiness for compromises".

Lisin said that the Russian parliament, as the legitimate successor of the Union parliament, has "every right to lay claims on IZVESTIYA's printing facilities", so the MPs [member of parliament] will not initiate legal actions against this newspaper believing that the law is on their side.

Vladimir Lisin refuted the generally accepted conviction that the parliament wants to run this newspaper. The parliament hasn't got anything to do with the editorial staff, said Lisin. We would like to set up our own press organ on IZVESTIYA's basis, because in our opinion the nation has got confronted with serious problems which need to be highlighted in the press.

Lisin did not comment on the choice of editors or political bias of the parliament's future newspaper.

Legislator Opposes IZVESTIYA Decree

PM2708091192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Aug 92 First Edition p 1

[Vladislav Krukovskiy report under the "Competent Opinion" rubric: "State Cannot Present Everyone With a Publishing House"]

[Text] On 17 July, as is well known, the Russian Supreme Soviet adopted the resolution "On the Newspaper IZVESTIYA." It spoke of resuming publication of the newspaper IZVESTIYA of the soviets of Russian Federation people's deputies on the basis of the state publishing house "IZVESTIYA SOVETOV NARODNYKH DEPUTATOV SSSR." On 22 August Russian President B.N. Yeltsin issued an ordinance instructing the Russian State Committee for the Management of State Property to examine the question of assigning this publishing house to the "IZVESTIYA" newspaper publishing complex.

All this has come to resemble the well known naval sport of tug-of-war. But even this has some rules of its own. So we asked Nikolay Timofeyevich Ryabov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Republic, to comment on the situation that has emerged.

[Ryabov] On behalf of the Supreme Soviet I have coordinated the work of the parliamentary commission on the mass media, and so I know all that is happening over IZVESTIYA not just from the outside, not just by hearsay. In short, your question is pertinent. In yesterday's ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA I saw the president's ordinance on assigning the property of the "IZVESTIYA SOVETOV NARODNYKH DEPUTATOV SSSR" publishing complex to its successor—the "IZVESTIYA" newspaper publishing complex. I will say frankly that it surprised and perplexed me.

I will cite two official documents. The first is the "Explanatory Note" sent me by I. Golembiovskiy, chief editor of the newspaper IZVESTIYA; Yu. Yefremov, director of the "IZVESTIYA" Publishing House; and I. Laptev, director of the concern. This is what they write: "The concern in its present form is a small enterprise created by the publishing house and the newspaper's editorial board to fulfill a very narrow range of tasks: to resolve contradictions that arise, to hold talks of a commercial nature, and so forth. The concern does not and cannot interfere in the daily activity of either the newspaper or the publishing house. Seven people are employed on its staff, including the general director and two secretary-typists."

It is this concern, if it can be called such, that the president proclaims the successor, and he requires the State Committee for the Management of State Property to hand over to it a vast state enterprise—a newspaper publishing complex worth many tens of millions of rubles.

I will cite another document—I. Golembiovskiy's speech at a session of the Federation Supreme Soviet. "Everything that the 'IZVESTIYA' publishing complex has at its disposal," he said, "is state property, owned by the state." That is, the chief editor virtually dissociated himself from the "small enterprise"—the "IZVESTIYA" concern.

Thus, the very essence of this presidential ordinance does not withstand examination on the basis of logic and common sense. Not to mention the legal aspect of the matter.

In conclusion let us analyze another provision of the president's ordinance—on the so-called transfer of property in accordance with the "established procedure." What does it mean? For the State Committee for the Management of State Property this procedure means the privatization of a state enterprise. This must be carried out according to the terms provided for by law.

Therefore I, while deeply and sincerely respecting our president, would advise those who prepared this and who will prepare other similar ordinances to be more circumspect. They must not create special cases like the one enshrined in the 22 August document on the "IZVESTIYA" publishing complex. In short, it is turning out the way NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA once wrote: All have won a victory, but only one gets the spoils. I believe that the transfer of the "IZVESTIYA SOVETOV NARODNYKH DEPUTATOV SSSR" complex to the "IZVESTIYA" newspaper publishing complex will do our press a disservice.

Gaydar Criticizes Television 'Hysteria'

PM2708091792 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 27 Aug 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "There Is Positive Experience Too!"]

[Text] The government should remedy the situation currently prevailing in the sphere of propaganda work. This was stated 24 August by Yegor Gaydar, acting chairman of the Russian Federation Government, at the conference on the progress of reforms at local level. As he put it, current propaganda is being choked by the lack of positive experience and by the "endless hysteria on all the TV channels." "The population is tired of this hysteria," he said. At the same time, Gaydar stressed that there is no question of setting up a ministry of propaganda or a special agitation and propaganda administration.

New Book on Secret Kremlin, KGB Documents

LD2508073192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 25 Aug 92

[Text] A pilot copy of the first book entitled *The Unknown Russia—The 20th Century" [Neizvestnaya Rossiya—20 Vek]* has been published. It is issued by the Moscow Archives Association in conjunction with Historic Heritage publishing house. This is in fact the first large-scale publication of documents from secret Kremlin special archives [spetskhrans], CPSU, and KGB archives.

Supreme Soviet

Deputies Question Secrecy Over Japan Policy

PM2708090192 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 27 Aug 92 pp 1, 3

[N. Garifullina article: "Kurils Problem: Deputies Try To Work It Out"]

[Text] B. Yeltsin's visit to Japan is being cloaked in a veil of secrecy which is causing concern and alarm in society. And, whereas until recently there had been press reports of the "three options" which the president was taking to

Japan, at a news conference on the anniversary of the "victory of democracy" he stated that he now has another 12 options for approaching the resolution of the territorial problem between Russia and Japan—but he will only announce them on day two of his visit there.

What does the future hold—or, rather, what does the unpredictable president have in store for Russia? This is an unknown not only for Russians and for parliament. At the Tuesday session of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations, People's Deputy Sergey Mikhaylov announced that at least three members of the commission preparing for the visit—including himself and the chairman of the Sakhalin Oblast Soviet—do not know what proposals the president is taking to Japan, even though (according to a Foreign Ministry statement) the full text of a peace treaty has been completely agreed with the Japanese side, one question excepted.

"You get the impression," S. Mikhaylov stressed, "that a group of people in the government are trying to resolve this very painful question both for the public and for the country as a whole behind closed doors, behind the backs of the people and parliament, and—as far as I am aware—even behind the government's back, since a considerable number of government members know nothing about it either."

How do deputies view the situation and possible ways of solving the problem? Many of them—Sergey Baburin, Sergey Mikhaylov, Gennadiy Sayenko, and Nikolay Pavlov, for instance— agree that the talks should take no account of the 1956 declaration, since it was signed and ratified by the Union Supreme Soviet with flagrant violations: There was not even any formalistic or fictitious consent given by the Russian Federation to an alteration of its borders and the transfer of part of its territory. And since this declaration was signed and ratified in breach of the Constitution, it cannot be accepted as a document which binds the Russian Federation to anything.

Under the 1990 Declaration on State Sovereignty, any alteration to the Russian Federation's borders can only occur after a referendum. The Federation Treaty that was signed requires the consent of a subject of the Federation—in this instance Sakhalin Oblast—to an alteration of its borders. So the matter cannot be regarded as resolved from the purely legal standpoint. In order to reach a compromise satisfactory to both sides national consensus will be needed—that is, most of the population must accept this approach.

It was noted with alarm at the session that Japan's position has hardened recently. There has been "frontal, crude, across-the-board strong-arm pressure from the Japanese side that goes beyond the bounds of civilized norms. The Japanese side is insisting that during the visit decisions be made on Russia's transferring 'sovereignty over all the islands...' There has been an attempt to exploit Russia's weakness and 'extort' favorable decisions for Japan."

Thus, at one end of the spectrum is the president, the government, and the "Democratic Russia" bloc which supports them, at the other is the parliamentary opposition, the patriotic movements, and a considerable proportion of the population, who consider Russian Federation territory to be integral and inalienable. At the same time, on the eve of the visit the parliament and the committee have not been informed as to what the Foreign Ministry has recommended and what the president has decided.

Just who, in principle, can decide this question? Iona Andronov, deputy chairman of the Committee for International Affairs, quoted an interview with State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis, who heads the commission preparing for the visit (NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 8 August): "Everything relating to Russia's position on territorial questions is ultimately the prerogative of the Russian Federation president." But this directly contravenes the Constitution and the Declaration on Sovereignty.

Another interview was very eloquent. Vice Premier Poltoranin, who had traveled to Japan on the president's instructions and had held talks there, was asked: "The declaration on Russian sovereignty stipulates that national territory can be altered only by referendum. Will there be a referendum on the southern Kurils?" He replied: "No, there will be no referendum in this instance."

"We are in a situation where the statements by government representatives preparing for the visit clearly contravene our laws. On the other hand, they are avoiding meeting with us. We are supposed to think about not upsetting political stability in Russia and not doing any damage to the president's prestige, because this is a key factor in our political stability," Iona Andronov believes.

But not all deputies agreed.

"Yes, we need to think about the president. But presidents come and go. We need to think about Russia and about peace. The Kurils are an issue that could trip up our president and our authorities. In people's minds the Kurils have been, are, and will continue to be age-old Russian territory," Deputy Yevgeniy Pudovkin remarked.

The position of the president and the Foreign Ministry and of pro-Japanese—or, at any rate, clearly not Russian—interests were upheld at the session by Deputies M. Tolstoy, A. Surkov, and L. Gurevich. In the heat of argument it was forgotten that Russia has been a target for Japanese military aggression four times this century.

Deputy Mikhail Astafyev considered that the argument banning the transfer of territory on the basis of the Constitution was more than adequate, and he submitted an amendment to the committee decision stating that the president should be guided in his talks with Japan by the norms of the Russian Constitution. Eight committee members voted in favor and six against. L. Gurevich and A. Surkov then staged a walkout in protest. But they jumped the gun. The amendment did not win the necessary number of votes.

As a result of the debate a cautious three-point decision was adopted. The committee recommends that, during his tour to Japan, the president "recognize the existence of

insoluble problems in Russo-Japanese relations, and demonstrate Russia's willingness to seek a constructive solution on the basis of previous accords within the range of Russian national interests in the Asia-Pacific region." The committee also considered it "extremely dangerous to recognize Japanese sovereignty in any form over any part of Russian territory."

Will the president accept these recommendations? That is an open question...

Opposition Demands Session on Kurils, Abkhazia

LD2708121292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1127 GMT 27 Aug

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Alexandrova]

[Text] Moscow August 27 TASS—The opposition parliamentary bloc "Russian unity" demanded that a special session of the Russian parliament be called.

The bloc issued an address to Russian legislators at a news conference held at the Russian parliament press centre on Thursday [27 August]. The address says that "there is a threat to the country's territorial integrity". The opposition believes that some Kuril islands will be transferred to Japan during Boris Yeltsin's Japanese visit.

Bloc coordinator Vladimir Isakov expressed concern that the parliament session was moved up from September 15 to September 22 and possibly even to October. Opposition representatives said that the session should also discuss the situation in Abkhazia. According to Gennadiy Sayenko, the coordinator of the "Communists of Russia" group who visited Abkhazia recently, "military aggression was committed against Abkhazia and genocide is conducted against its population". If the Russian Government does not take measures to stop the conflict, "nothing will prevent a large-scale Caucasian war".

Opposition representatives read out a draft address by Russian legislators to the U.N. secretary-general and the international community at the news conference. The draft is headlined "Abkhazia's occupation is an act of terrorism and genocide".

Regional Affairs

Khasbulatov Arrives in Karelia for 4-Day Visit

LD2708083192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0809 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Zlobin]

[Text] Petrozavodsk August 27 TASS—Russian Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov arrived in Karelia on Thursday [27 August] to acquaint himself with the life in the Northern Russian region bordering on Finland.

The main aim of the four-day visit is "to better learn the life of the northerners, to see with my own eyes how reforms are going on" in Karelia, he told reporters upon arrival.

Khasbulatov began his visit by laying a wreath to the tomb of the unknown soldier and to a monument to the founder of Petrozavodsk - Czar Peter the Great.

He then had a meeting with local parliamentarians, ministers, heads of administrations.

Also on Thursday the speaker is expected to visit a major pulp and paper joint stock enterprise in Petrozavodsk and travel by helicopter to the Island of Kizhi in Onega Lake which is famous for its ancient wooden architecture.

Adygea Leader on Georgian Troops in Abkhazia

PM2608074992 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Aug 92 p 1

[Interview with Adygea President Aslan Dzharimov by correspondent Konstantin Aksenov in Maykop; date not given: "Aslan Dzharimov: 'Nobody Can Win This Fight'"]

[Text] Maykop—A rally is in full swing on the central square of Maykop—the Adygea capital. The mountain people attending it have been talking for several days now about the calamity that has befallen their brothers—the Abkhaz—in their peaceful home. Across the Caucasus mountains the blood of entirely innocent people is being shed. Refugee eyewitnesses have spoken of a bloodbath organized by the Georgian Supreme Council's army. In Sukhumi and other towns and settlements in the republic thousands of Abkhazia's peaceful inhabitants and visitors to its resorts are fleeing.

People in Adygea know about the tragedy befalling their brothers in Abkhazia, as do people in the other North Caucasus republics. Many people who took the microphone called for the immediate formation of detachments to be sent to their assistance.

What is the view of the republic's official authorities? I put this question to President Aslan Dzharimov of Adygea.

[Dzharimov] Tension is mounting, people are calling for urgent measures to be taken—including the dispatch of volunteers. I am convinced that the conflict must be resolved peacefully. As president of Adygea I am doing everything possible to this end. After meeting in Armavir with the leaders of the North Caucasus republics, the Stavropol region, and Krasnodar Kray, I visited Moscow, where I had talks with the Russian leadership on this problem.

[Aksenov] How do you assess Shevardnadze's statement that Georgia is prepared to set up an army of a million men?

[Dzharimov] One thing must be understood: This conflict cannot be resolved by force of arms. It may exacerbate the situation and bring about bloodshed, but it will not bring about peace. That is why we are opposed to strong-arm methods and saber rattling. We are no longer asking but demanding that the armed men from Georgia leave Abkhaz territory. Then we can get around the negotiating table. The Abkhaz side would support this proposal in this instance. There is no other way.

[Aksenov] Supporting its brothers in Abkhazia, the Confederation of Mountain Peoples has issued a very tough statement of its intent not to leave Abkhazia in trouble....

[Dzharimov] The confederation's statement was prompted by the fact that Georgian Supreme Council troops are in

the republic. When they are withdrawn, then we will say that it is time to sit down at the negotiating table.

Expects Meeting With Yeltsin, Rutskoy

MK2608132592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Aug 92 p 3

[Radik Batyrshin report under the general heading "North Caucasus Volunteers Head for Abkhazia Via Mountain Paths To Avoid Russian Border Guards": "Diplomacy"]

[Text] Adygea Republic President Arslan Dzharimov gave a telephone interview to a NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] You are one of the first to try to become an intermediary in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict. Has there been any response from the Georgian leadership to your proposals?

[Dzharimov] In response to our message and telephone calls, Eduard Shevardnadze sent us a very long telegram. In it he expresses opposition to the withdrawal of State Council troops from Abkhazia.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] On 21 August you, together with other leaders from the North Caucasus, met with Russian Federation Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy and discussed events in Abkhazia. What were the results of that meeting?

[Dzharimov] We were told that an appeal from the Russian president to the peoples of the North Caucasus will be issued soon. But this is not the main thing, although even this is a very positive element. In the light of the fact that tension has spread to our region, a meeting between Yeltsin, Rutskoy, and the leaders of North Caucasus republics, krays, and oblasts is expected to take place in the very near future, probably this week, in one of the North Caucasus cities. Shevardnadze and Ardzinba have been invited to this meeting.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] At a press conference, however, Boris Yeltsin warned of the unacceptability of intervention by the North Caucasus republics, did he not?

[Dzharimov] There is already intervention. But not by Russian or North Caucasus authorities. Therefore, it is necessary to work even faster and even more efficiently in order to ensure that this initiative does not take precedence over what we want.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] But Abkhazia already has new authorities—the Interim Council....

[Dzharimov] The volunteers' impulsiveness is difficult to restrain, and some of them are already in Abkhazia unfortunately. But they are approaching not the Interim Council but rather the lawfully elected parliament, which is working and trying to settle the conflict.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] How do you evaluate the activity of the Confederation of Mountain Peoples?

[Dzharimov] They have undertaken resolute actions. And it is possible to agree with the Confederation of Caucasian Mountain Peoples' evaluation of the conflict in Abkhazia. But I do not agree that this conflict can be resolved through armed channels.

Kuban Cossacks Forbidden To Fight in Abkhazia

LD2608214992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Text] Vasiliy Dyakonov, head of the Krasnodar Kray Administration, has issued a warning to the effect that those who go to fight in Abkhazia will have to face criminal proceedings. The NEGA agency reports that Dyakonov issued this warning to his compatriots after information about contacts between representatives of the Confederation of Highland Peoples and the leadership of the Kuban Cossack Council had become known. The highlanders explored the ground for the possibility of sending Cossacks to Abkhazia.

Dagestan Opposition Parties Urge Early Elections

LD2708092792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1700 GMT 26 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gadjiy Shamov]

[Text] Makhachkala August 26 TASS—A tent camp was set up in the Central Square of Makhachkala, capital of the Republic of Dagestan in Northern Caucasus and a mass meeting was held there.

The leaders of popular movements and opposition parties addressed the meeting to blast the Parliament and the Government for failing to produce a well-though-out programme for pulling the republic out of the crisis.

A signature collecting campaign was held under the demand to hold a referendum on early elections to the republic's parliament.

Participants in the meeting declared they would stay in the tent camp until their demands were met.

Representatives of the Confederation of Caucasian Highlanders are using the occasion to raise money and recruit volunteers to extend assistance to Abkhazia where battles are raging between Abkhazian militiamen and the Georgian national guards.

Krasnodar Wants Visas for Border With Georgia

LD2608123792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0847 GMT 26 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Zhilyakov]

[Text] Krasnodar August 26 TASS—The territorial group of Russia's people's deputies from Krasnodar territory have urged the president of the Russian Federation "to establish an entry and exit visa regime for Russia's state border with Georgia in Krasnodar territory before January 1, 1993".

This demand has been prompted by the situation that has developed in the Kuban area in view of the events in Abkhazia and the North Caucasus. "The slightest delay in a resolution of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict by civilised methods, just as connivance at the interference of the

armed formations of the Confederation of the Highland Peoples in Georgia's affairs, may fully destabilise the already complex situation in the Kuban area", the deputies' message points out.

Labor Groups Demand Yeltsin Clarify Kurils Stand

OW2608144292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1353 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Independent Union of Russian Miners and the Vorkuta Workers' Committee demanded that the president, government and parliament officially elucidate their position on the Kuril Islands. In a letter to the Russian leaders, to the head of the administration of the Sakhalin region and to the Independent Union of Sakhalin Miners they stated that the situation whereby the leaders do not share their position on the problem with the people is abnormal.

They also stated that re-settlement of the population of Russia's individual territories was illegal and that they will give support to the population of the Kuril Islands.

International Affairs

Treatment of Ukrainians in Bosnia Protested

OW2608172592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1621 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian Ambassador to the UN, Viktor Batyuk, addressed yesterday's session of the General Assembly in regard with the situation in Bosnia and Hercegovina.

Victor Batyuk pointed out the status of the Ukrainian minority in the areas near Prnjavor (Bosnia), Vukovar (Croatia), Miklusevci and Petrovci (Voyvodina) which are under Serbian control. The Ambassador said that Ukrainians resided there are subject to body search, intimidation, they are made to leave their homes and participate in the fighting.

As a result, in the Vukovar and Petrovci regions there have not been left Ukrainian villages, according to Viktor Batyuk. [sentence as received] The Ukrainian Ambassador mentioned the provocations against the Ukrainian battalion of the UN peacekeeping forces which left two servicemen dead and 12 wounded, according to the "Kharkov-Novosti" news agency.

Appeal Issued for Assistance

AU2608134892 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Text] The local Transcarpathian press has published an appeal adopted by the Crisis Committee of the Ruthenians and Ukrainians residing in the Republic of Croatia. It is pointed out in the appeal that, as a result of combat activities, the life of Ukrainians and Ruthenians who have been living on the territory of Croatia for centuries has become very difficult. The Crisis Committee appeals to all voluntary, church, public, and state organizations of Ukraine with a request to provide humanitarian aid to the Ukrainians and Ruthenians in Croatia.

Further on Talks With Uzbekistan's Karimov

OW2608191892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1749 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Presidents of Ukraine and Uzbekistan, Leonid Kravchuk and Islam Karimov, have continued their negotiations today. Earlier on they signed a treaty on the fundamentals of relations between the two countries and cooperation between them, as well as an agreement on trade and economic cooperation for 1993 and a protocol on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two states.

Kravchuk advocated the forming of joint ventures by Ukrainian companies and firms from other CIS countries. In particular, the two Presidents discussed, according to the Kharkov-Novosti news agency, the setting up of oil- and gold-producing joint ventures. Serious attention was paid to supplies of Uzbek cotton to Ukraine, the position of the Ukrainian minority in Uzbekistan, and the repatriation of the Crimean Tatars living in Uzbekistan.

In connection with the first anniversary of Ukraine's independence, Karimov said "the nation now has a recognized leader," meaning Kravchuk.

In an interview with the Ukrainian TV, Kravchuk described the Independence Day Veche (popular assembly) as too similar to a political street rally and said he doubted such meetings should be held in future.

We are planning to give more details about his stance on this in tomorrow's issue.

New Embassy Opens in Germany

LD2608013292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1421 GMT 25 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Sosnovskiy]

[Text] Bonn, 25 Aug—Ivan Piskovoy, Ukrainian ambassador to Germany, and employees of the diplomatic mission of that country met their guests with bread and salt, dumplings, and a gapak [Ukraninan dance] performed by Kiev artists. The diplomatic mission opened in Bonn on the national holiday—the day of proclaiming the Ukraine an independent democratic state. On the occasion of the dual festivities, the Kiev representatives did not spare any expense and arranged a grand reception for almost 800 people.

The Ukrainian Embassy is situated in the mansion where, until recently, the USSR Embassy used to be. In January 1991 the Soviet Embassy moved into a new building 50 meters away from the old building. Now, following the Union's disintegration, the Russian Embassy is situated there.

Thus, Kiev and Moscow are represented in Bonn by two neighboring residences situated on common territory and surrounded by a common fence with common gates and guards. However, there are two signs on the gates now and there are two banners on the flagstaffs.

National Affairs

Kravchuk Threatens Expulsion of Foreigners

LD2608192892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1848 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Text] Moscow, 26 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—The Ukrainian authorities have threatened to expel from the republic, citizens "of any country" guilty of attempting "to split the people, to sow inter-ethnic or social enmity." The Ukrainian National Information Agency issued a statement on this today on instructions from Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk.

This document, which has been received by ITAR-TASS, says that during the work of the World Forum of Ukrainians which took place in Kiev 21-24 August, "certain"

foreign participants attempted to make use of the lofty tribune "to propagandize narrow party and group views of the present and future of the Ukrainian state."

"Some of them made direct calls for opposition to the actions of the government and the Supreme Soviet and the president's policy," says the statement which, however, does not cite any names.

Such actions, it follows from the document, will in future be regarded by the republican authorities as "causing great harm to the idea of the state renaissance of Ukraine." Those who commit such actions will be expelled from Ukraine without the right to visit it ever again."

Further on Threat

OW2608203292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1835 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a meeting with the chairman of the Ukrainian State Administration, Bohdan Fedoruk, and the director of the Administration's chancery, Boris Potapenko, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said, "Preserving national statehood is a more important problem for Ukraine than it is for Russia."

Internal conflicts impede the strengthening of Ukrainian statehood, he added.

The Ukrainian State Administration is a Ukrainian nationalist organization set up abroad during World War II. It proclaimed itself a Ukrainian government in exile but recently disbanded itself.

Speaking about the sharp statements about the Ukrainian leadership made by Ukrainian emigres at the World Forum of Ukrainians, Kravchuk said that he had instructed the Foreign Ministry to prepare a document warning that non-Ukrainian citizens who committed such acts again would be expelled from Ukraine within 24 hours. He said such behavior on the part of emigre nationalists might cause tension in those parts of Eastern Ukraine where the majority of the population was Russian-speaking. He is going to visit the region soon to "pacify the local population," as he put it, the Kharkov-Novosti agency reports.

Further on Kravchuk Address to Ukranian Forum

MK2608152092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Aug 92 p 3

[Vitaliy Portnikov report under "Ukraine" rubric: "Republic Marks Anniversary of Independence. Hetman Ivan Mazepa Rehabilitated by President and Church"]

[Excerpt] The nationwide assembly on St. Sophia Square was the World Forum of Ukrainians' latest action, and it ended in Kiev on the day of the anniversary of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet's proclamation of the country's independence. Its delegates, who formed the World Coordinating Council of Ukrainians, also participated in a celebratory session of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet and Cabinet of Ministers, where a long report—the second in a few days—was delivered by Leonid Kravchuk. The Ukrainian president called the state proclaimed 24 August 1991 the direct successor of Kievan Rus, the principality of Galicia, the first Christian republic in Europe—the Zaporozhye host [Zaporozhskoy Sechi], and the Ukrainian People's Republic. Among the Ukrainian people's heroes and saints Kravchuk mentioned—besides Bogdan Khmelnitskiy and Taras Shevchenko—Hetman Ivan Mazepa, especially singling out his "desperate dash for freedom." In the presence of Vladimir Grinev, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet; Yuriy Shimko, president of the World Congress of Free Ukrainians; and Ivan Saviy, the president's representative in Kiev, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church—the Kiev Patriarchate—held a celebratory service lifting from the famous hetman the excommunication imposed on him over two centuries ago.

In his report, Leonid Kravchuk again and again called for unity: "No matter what ideals guide a particular leader or party, if their activity threatens independence or the people, there can be neither justification nor forgiveness for this. Today the only criterion in ordering our priorities should be their conformity or nonconformity with the cause of building an independent Ukrainian power. It is the very idea of statehood that should unite everybody." Welcoming the idea of forming a Congress of National-Democratic Forces, Leonid Kravchuk asked: "Is our tragic history of over 70 years ago not repeating itself today? Then, the Ukrainian People's Republic collapsed because of political conflicts, and the people again fell under the center's authority. We do not have the right to take this tragic road." Speaking about economic reforms, the Ukrainian president stressed that it is now impossible to stop on the road toward the market, having promised privatization, demonopolization, and the formation of a government of reforms. Dwelling on foreign policy guidelines, he recalled that "we have stated to the whole world that we will be a nonnuclear, non-bloc, neutral power. However, we are prepared to defend our borders, and these borders will be defined by us and not by anybody outside the Ukrainian state." Leonid Kravchuk stated that "in the Ukraine there is not and has not been a problem regarding the Russian-speaking population or a problem regarding the Russian minority. Russians already have all rights in the Ukrainian state, but we hope that Ukrainians in Russia will have all this too." In his opinion, relations with Russia, Belarus, and the other CIS states must be subordinated to the idea of equality and sovereignty, and "we do not recognize any other platform." [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Denies Radio Liberty Report

AU2608141492 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Text] The Press Center of the Foreign Ministry has refuted Radio Liberty' information to the effect that the Ukrainian External Political Department has prepared an agreement on the regulations at the border between Ukraine and Russia, an agreement that was, allegedly, almost implemented. It is not true, stated Yuriy Serheyev, head of the Press Center, at a briefing for Ukrainian and

foreign reporters, that the Foreign Ministry allegedly concealed such an important document from the people and from the parliament that would have had to ratify it. In the given case, emphasized the Foreign Ministry representative, we deal with a draft document that was proposed by the Russian side during the meeting in Mukholatka.

Ukraine's Foreign Ministry sent copies of it to all departments concerned, including the Committee for the Defense of the State Borders, Security Service, and the Finance Ministry for analysing and making proposals.

In turn, Ukraine's Foreign Ministry has three variants for establishing regulations at the Ukrainian-Russian border, announced the head of the Press Center, however, all of them are drafts rather than agreements or accords.

55 Percent of State Grain Order Fulfilled

LD2708023492 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Text] Ukraine's State Committee for Bread Products states that by 24 August, the state received 9.38 million tonnes of grain which amounts to 55 percent of the state order. Six oblasts of Ukraine have already fulfilled the state order of grain sales and continue sales on top of the plan. At the same time, in a number of oblasts, without good reason, the rate of grain procurement is lower than last year. That is happening in Crimea, Poltava, and especially Kirovograd Oblasts. It is also noteworthy that a number of state and collective farms which in effect, boycotted grain sales to the state, has dropped sharply: from 53 to only 8 of them for the whole republic.

Crimea Bans Export of Grain, Potatoes

LD2708022992 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Text] The Council of Ministers of Crimea has banned, until the state order on grain and potatoes is fulfilled, the movement of produce outside the republic's borders. That measure has been taken in order to organize normal provision of the population of the peninsular with foodstuffs.

Farmer's Congress Meets on Land Reform

LD2708050692 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1342 GMT 26 Aug 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Lev Ryabchikov]

[Text] Simferopol, 25 Aug—The second congress of Crimean farmers which discussed the process of implementation of land reform on the peninsula has ended. Many examples of the law on the peasant farm being directly ignored and cases of farmers being refused land were quoted. The congress adopted a statement addressed to the republic's Supreme Soviet. The statement proposes that all legislative acts of Crimea to do with farms and land relations be prepared jointly with representatives of the farmers' association. It was decided to send documents, which certify the violating by local authorities of the effective land legislation, to the procurator general's office of Ukraine.

New Tribunal To Deal With Economic Disputes

AU2608142092 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Text] Ukraine's enterprises and organizations suffer quite a number of financial losses as a result of the inability to quickly resolve economic disputes that arise between them and firms of near and distant foreign countries. To eliminate this problem, a group of specialists of the Ukrainian Juridical Academy and Ukraine's Lawyers Union has elaborated, by the order of Ukraine's Union of Entrepreneurs and Enterprises, a package of documents on the arbitration tribunal of the CIS countries.

It is particularly pointed out in these documents that this arbitration tribunal is independent of state foundations, is based on the supremacy of international law, will register private enterprises, and will protect lawful interests when considering disputes that arise between representatives of one or several CIS countries or between them and foreign states.

Public Committee To Protect Crimean Constitution

OW2608113392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1018 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Republican movement of the Crimea has set up a public committee for protecting the constitution of the Republic of the Crimea. One of this movement's leaders Viktor Mezhak said that the committee will investigate the anti-constitutional activity of the Ukrainian Procurator-General's Office which has paralyzed at least 30 Crimean enterprises and worker groups.

Mezhak also said that the committee will consider the citizens' complaints about violations of their rights and freedoms by representatives of the "neighboring state".

Firm Illegally Exports Rare-Earth Metals

AU2508215692 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 11 Aug 92 p 4

[Commentary by Oleksandr Yaremenko: "Mendelyeyev Just Had No Idea...."]

[Text] Mendelyeyev just had no idea that certain rare metals from his famous table would become objects of smuggling. Besides, why should that have been of any concern to him? As it appears, whole planeloads of them are being taken out of independent Ukraine!

One "clever" scientific and production firm in Kiev rented, for "much money," liners from a united aircraft unit stationed in Kiev and, openly and illegally, exported precious metals to destinations abroad.

Although belatedly, operational workers of the Department for Combating Organized Crime at the Transcarpathian Administration of Internal Affairs looked into these transports. They detained a plane loaded with rare-earth metals at the "Uzhhorod" airport.

The cargo contained 3.2 tonnes of zirconium and "just" 800 kilograms of hafnium and was about to be dispatched to "fraternal" Estonia. The engines were already heated up, but the plane never took off....

Later, experienced specialists informed the militia that a single kilogram of zirconium costs about $1,000 at average stock-exchange prices. One kilogram of hafnium costs.... over $25,000.

These metals are needed for producing special high-alloy steel. One can only imagine the price of the ready metals!

This is not all. As was subsequently found out by the Main Administration for Combating Organized Crime, two beautiful liners of the same Kiev united aircraft unit have, by now, smuggled out more than six tonnes of these metals. Also to Estonia!

A very careful investigation will, perhaps, find out the nature of the exports: usual contraband or a well-planned economic sabotage against independent Ukraine. The damage that our state has suffered is already quite appreciable.

Leaders of Free Unions Continue Hunger Strike

OW2508175392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1645 GMT 25 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Five leaders of Ukrainian free unions continue the hunger strike they began August 17. Chairperson of an independent union from the textile industry Olga Samokhvalova joined them August 21. The hunger strikers demand that a tariff agreement with the republic's government be signed immediately.

Chairman of an independent machinists' union Semen Koritov announced in an interview with Radio Svoboda that the goal of the tariff agreement is not only a demand for wage hikes, but an entire series of measures on the social protection of workers. Koritov reported that after the beginning of the hunger strike, discussions on the tariff agreement with the government stepped up: considerably more points were examined in one week than in an entire month of work.

Koritov explained that the advisory council of the Free Union of Machinists held a meeting with representatives of the official (independent) union. They decided to support the hunger strikers' demands.

Specialist Offers Program for Decontaminating Land

AU2508211292 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 25 Aug 92

[Text] It is possible, in just several months, to return to Ukraine, lands after ridding them of the Chernobyl Atomic Electric Power Plant radionuclides. This is stated in the newspaper EKHO CHERNOBYLYA [Chernobyl Echo] by Volodymyr (?Mozhuhin), general director of the association of machine building technologists.

We have elaborated a program, he said, that makes it possible to accelerate, in normal conditions, the half-life of radionuclides. None of the high-ranking officials, the newspaper points out, to whom these proposals have been sent, [words indistinct], but at the same time, is any hurry to make an assessment of the innovators' project.

'First Ever' Ukrainian Air Show Held in Lvov

PM2508133592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 22 Aug 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast: Video report by V. Lyashko]

[Text] [Lyashko] It is not by chance that independent Ukraine's first ever air show is being held in Lvov. The 14th Air Army of the former USSR, which is stationed in western Ukraine, was one of the first to swear loyalty to the people of Ukraine.

In contrast to the Navy, the division of the Air Force between Ukraine and Russia has in general, passed off peacefully, if one does not count the hijacking of six fighters and six Backfire bombers.

Incidentally, in this connection, there has been covert rivalry for almost six months now between the military departments of the two states.

Today's air show in Lvov graphically demonstrates to the Ukrainian taxpayers that the young republic has acquired most of the attributes of statehood in just one year: an army, national insignia, its own currency, borders, and much more. This is precisely what was promised by the Ukrainian president when he took office last December.

Meanwhile, there are many problems in the army, just as in society: the poor living conditions of many servicemen, the attempts of various social organizations and parties to acquire influence over the army, desertion, draft evasion, and crime.

Belarus

Popular Front Demands Parliament Meet 29 Sep

LD2708092292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1649 GMT 26 Aug 92

[By BELINFORM correspondent Larisa Lasar for TASS]

[Text] Minsk August 26 TASS—The Belarusian Popular Front demanded that the Belarusian Parliament holds its session on September 29 rather than in November as previously scheduled, at a meeting devoted to the anniversary of Belarus' independence held in Minsk late on Tuesday [25 August].

According to the People's Front, the agenda should include raising minimum wages, enacting laws aimed at the development of market economic reforms and social protection of Belarusian citisens and discussing the country's budget for 1992.

On the same day and about the same time a meeting of the Party of Belarusian Communists was held in the city's Gorkiy Park attended mainly by elderly people. The participants discussed the difficult economic situation in the republic, criticised the Government and voiced proposals to set up a workers' government to defend the interests of the working people.

Democrats Favor Alternative Media Stations

LD2708090892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1512 GMT 26 Aug 92

[By BELINFORM-TASS correspondent Larisa Lazar]

[Text] Minsk August 26 TASS—Belarusian democrats favor the creation of television and radio alternative to the state-owned television and radio. This is stated in an open letter by the Executive Committee of the United Democratic Party of Belarus to the Supreme Soviet, the Council of Ministers and the leadership of the National Television and Radio Company of the Republic of Belarus.

The executive committee demanded that the leadership of the republic and the National Television and Radio Company allocate broadcasting time for democratic parties and movements, as well as space in daily government newspapers and provide material assistance to the non-government mass media.

New Monopoly Structures Created in Gomel

LD2508213892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1933 GMT 25 Aug 92

[By BELINFORM correspondent Lidiya Peresypkina for TASS]

[Text] Gomel August 25 TASS—Only the Belarusian economic court or the republican Supreme Soviet can cancel the decision of the Gomel regional executive committee to create a structure which has become a trade monopolist in the area.

Referring to the governmental decision on saturating the goods market in the transitional period, the region has founded the Oblforgsoyuz wholesale-retail enterprise and subordinated to it all trade facilities and storages.

At the same time, profitable and juridically independent cost-accounting associations were closed down. The new monopolist was instructed to help "in the transformation of existing state trade structures into a system of non-state property forms—collective, joint stock and private."

Republican entrepreneurs' unions were the first to raise the alarm and referred to the same governmental decision, the core of which is de-monopolization of the economy. A decision of the Belarusian Trade Ministry's board says "under conditions of breaking up into smaller units the retail sales network, the creation of a bigger monopoly wholesale enterprise without competition can deteriorate the tense situation on the goods market."

Moldova

Sangeli Holds Talks With Dniester's Smirnov

AU2608142492 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1355 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Text] Chisinau ROMPRES 26/8/1992—On Tuesday, August 25 the Republic of Moldova's Prime Minister Andrey Sangeli met with the leader of the separatists in the so-called Dniester Republic, Igor Smirnov. The interview held in Tiraspol lasted two hours. No statements were made to the press but according to the government spokesman the premier's visit to Tiraspol had a strictly working character without approaching political issues. President Mircea Snegur empowered Andrey Sangeli to get the liberation of the citizens abusively taken by the separatists during the armed conflict.

According to the statements made by the chairman of the Human Rights Committee in Tiraspol, Stefan Uritu, recently freed after 82 days of prison, there are in Tiraspol at least five Moldovan patriots among whom Ilie Ilascu, local leader of the Christian Democratic People's Front.

Cooperation Agreement Reached

OW2608174092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1621 GMT 26 Aug 92

Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The meeting between the Moldovan Prime Minister, Andrey Sangeli, and the Dniester republic's President, Igor Smirnov, held in Tiraspol yesterday focused on economic issues, according to sources close to the Dniester leader.

The meeting was arranged in Igor Smirnov's study, in a strictly confidential atmosphere. The two parties resolved in principle existing problems in banking between Moldova and the Dniester republic, and reached agreements on cooperation between Moldovan and Dniestern industries and on combined actions to provide conditions for return of refugees who left the area of the armed conflict. During the meeting, the two parties decided to resume traffic on the Chisinau-Bendery-Tiraspol railway line.

Andrey Sangeli and Igor Smirnov agreed to continue bilateral contacts. Their next meeting is expected to take place in Chisinau in early September.

In an interview to an IF [INTERFAX], the Dniester republic's State Secretary, Valeriy Litskai, said that the Dniester leadership welcomed the resuming of contacts with Moldova at that high level, though pointing out that the issue of relations between the Dniester republic and Moldova may be resolved only after determining the political and constitutional status of Dniester.

Snegur on Dniester Situation, Future

OW2608183292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1745 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Report on meeting between President Mircea Snegur and unidentified reporters on 26 August; place not given; prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On the eve of the republic's Independence Day (the holiday will be celebrated on Thursday, August 27) President Mircea Snegur met with journalists.

"In August 1991, we made our first, most difficult and most decisive step away from the Communist totalitarianism, one-party dictatorship toward a law-governed democratic society. Today, a year after the proclamation of our independence we have obtained an opportunity to demonstrate our independence to the whole world, moreover materialize it. In addressing complex tasks of the transitional period, we are resolutely disassociating ourselves from the heritage of the old system which proved unable to realize the slogan "Everything for the Man - everything for the sake of Man" [quotation marks as received].

IF [INTERFAX] Note: The sources close to Moldova's president informed INTERFAX that on August 28 Mircea Snegur is planning to meet with Romanian President Ion Iliescu in the Romanian town of Hus. During the meeting the two leaders are expected to discuss the prospects for their political cooperation in settling the Dniester conflict.

In the words of Mircea Snegur, "one of the most onerous survival of totalitarianism and the hardest testing of our young democracy became the armed conflict in Moldova's eastern provinces in which we have been entangled." "We were confronted with a fierce attempt by the red-brown to deprive us of our independence and "liberate" our lands by the old implement - the use of arms", the president said.

The armed conflict in Dniester, the president maintains, became a serious test for the democratic forces in Russia who were under a strong pressure of those who "sought to reconstruct the empire on the wave of national-patriotism". From the very onset of the conflict, we have been advocating its resolution by peaceful means, the president said. However, when challenged by the sword, we had to "leave the plowshares and take up arms". "The noblest sons of our country have fulfilled their sacred duty before the Motherland," Mircea Snegur said.

Following the fulfillment of the first task - cease-fire and disengagement of the opposing sides, at state two, we will define the status of the East Bank provinces and restore in them constitutional control agencies, the president emphasized.

IF Note: Moldova's president's adviser, Ion Borsevic, regards as unconstitutional the criticism of the oppositional parties and movements invoked by the signing of the Russian-Moldovan accord as regards cease-fire in Dniester. In an interview to the Moldovian weekly "Theklia", he singled out "termination of the absurd warfare in Dniester as the republic's main objective. In the opinion of Mr Borsevic, "at all times, Moldova was regarded as a small card for the big countries, therefore our priority objective will become the upholding of its sovereignty and independence and peace talks which should not be conducted at the expense of our curtailing relations either with the West nor with the East nor with our closest neighbors - Romania and Ukraine".

Further on Situation

AU2608185192 Bucharest DIMINEATA Supplement No. 43 in Romanian 22-23 Aug 92 p 2

[Report on interview with Moldovan President Mircea Snegur by MOLDOVA-PRES; place and date not given: "There Are Hopes for Normalization of the Situation"]

[Text] Asked during an interview with MOLDOVA-PRES to describe the current situation in Moldova in the context of the Moldovan-Russian convention on the principles for the peaceful settlement of the armed conflict in the Dniester area of Moldova, President Mircea Snegur said:

There are no contradictory elements, and I would say that the current situation in our republic, especially in the Dniester area, is favorable for beginning to ensure the preconditions achieved in this first stage of implementing the convention. Thus we have been able to establish peace and stop the shooting. The Unified Control Commission has begun operations. Its mission is to monitor and ensure that the disengagement forces continue to perform their tasks. In the coming days, military observers from the four countries—Moldova, Romania, Russia, and Ukraine—will resume their duties, and in the coming days, we expect a group of UN observers to arrive. Thus, I can say that the preconditions have been created, in general terms, to proceed to the second stage—the stage for political discussions and debates within the joint parliamentary commission for solving the armed conflict by political means and even holding a dialogue with the opponents who launched this conflict, in order to solve the political aspect....

This is how one could characterize how things stand in the conflict area, however, I would like to express my concern in connection with another aspect such as the extremely unfavorable conditions in agriculture as a result of the drought sweeping over our lands....

Another aspect of concern is the rather slow rate of the reform process promoted in the national economy. Unfortunately, we have not been able to complete the legal framework for promoting it. The privatization program

has not yet been discussed and approved and this hampers us in propelling the reforms. Even a phenomenon like price liberalization, which took place before the privatization process, demonstrates that reforms began at the other end....

To the remark that a number of parties, political movements, public figures, and others in the republic term the signing of the convention with Russia either as lacking political intuition or a conscious necessity when considering a stronger opponent who wants to impose his will by all means, Snegur said:

....The idea of the convention is based on the way things were done in South Ossetia, namely the Dagomys Convention signed by Shevardnadze and Yeltsin. It seems, however, that our critics intentionally present things incorrectly when they argue against the Moldovan-Russian convention by saying that "in Moscow the Moldovan leadership signed the version of the convention drafted by the Kremlin".... The draft convention was drafted in Chisinau by experts from Moldova and Russia. It was then discussed and endorsed, step by step and word by word, in two special meetings by the entire Security Council of the Republic of Moldova....

Eduard Shevardnadze, who is a smart politician and diplomat—so that he does not need our appraisals—accepted Russia's help.... Thus, if Shevardnadze proceeded in this direction, then it is all the more justifiable, I think, for us to accept the settlement of the conflict between Moldovans and Russians precisely with the help of the Moldovans and the help of the Russians. This was the basis of the decisions on how to ease the conflict. Thus, this is neither lack of political intuition nor concessions toward a stronger opponent. We are talking of an understanding reached by two presidents—who view themselves as democrats—in order to put an end to the conflict and bloodshed that claimed human lives.

On the other hand, there is also an economic angle. It is not a bad thing that Russia is going to cover the maintenance costs of its peacekeeping forces. Had UN forces been deployed, then we would have been the ones to cover their costs. Thus, this is an issue that has to be mentioned, although it is not decisive. Then there is another aspect—the nonparticipation of the 14th Army, which is involved in the conflict, in settling the situation.... We do not have the 14th Army today as a disengagement force with special troops, that is, some sort of blue helmets who have a certain amount of experience in ensuring public order.

In connection with the idea launched by Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase regarding convening a new meeting of the foreign ministers of the four countries by mid-August, and in connection with the small number of military observers (five from each country), Snegur said: "I think that any political action and any meeting intended at easing the conflict or—as is the case now—to preserve peace, is justified....

"The small number of observers is just a beginning, because this number may be increased in accordance with the disengagement troops performing their duties. We will also approach the United Nations in regaurds to sending a contingent of UN observers, no matter how small. I am sure that such a meeting could take place, but there is no reason for us to believe that the four-way body is not functioning as it is continuing its activities. We will not renounce it, and those people who hold that the convention has eliminated the Romanians, Ukrainians, or others from the settlement process are wrong. At that time, however, we believed that the convention was one of the most successful methods for ensuring a cease-fire."

To a question linked to the persistence of the leaders in Tiraspol in perpetuating the statehood of this strip of Moldovan territory and even expanding the territory administered by them, something that might lead to the conclusion that in these circumstances the Dniester region has been lost and that not even negotiations on its status may preserve the solution, Snegur said: ....The initiative of negotiating a status for this zone belongs to our republic, our parliament, and the parliamentary commissions.... Indeed, in their speeches and in various interviews and statements, the Tiraspol leaders demonstrate that they stick to their former positions. They are talking about statehood, about creating their own armed forces, and setting all sorts of conditions for the leadership of Moldova, let's say, even for our rail traffic. In connection with all this, I would say that we are dealing with absolutely unserious partners. I am absolutely sure—and this conviction is confirmed by the information we receive from the left bank of the Dniester River—that the population is not supporting the uncompromising stance of the said leaders.... As far as the term "Dniester area" is concerned, at the beginning it seemed—let's say especially economically—to constitute a solution to the problem of the Dniester area. In this respect, we could quote the proposals made by Vasile Nedelciuc, president of the parliamentary Commission for Foreign Relations, concerning a cultural autonomy for ethnic communities—Ukrainian, Russian, and so forth, including their proportional representation in the leadership bodies. However, this would also be a variant to be discussed. In order to examine the problem, we have to renounce ambitions. As far as we can see, however, the leaders in Tiraspol have not given them up. In my opinion, the second part of applying the convention—I am talking about negotiations on the status of the Dniester area—will take more time. What is important is the fact that we are already able to discuss things in peace, which we have succeeded in establishing. The main thing now is to reestablish economic relations, while the political part—and this is my firm conviction—has to be solved with the help of the parliament, whose duty it is to make a definitive decision."

Asked to say whether the signing of the convention with Russia and the nonparticipation of other states in the process of peacefully settling the conflict meant an immediate or distant concession to the detriment of the republic's independence and integrity or—even more so—Moldova bowing again to imperial forces after so many victims have been claimed, Snegur said: Although I have already referred to this problem, I would like to add that in signing the convention with Russia, I relied on Yeltsin's

commitment to democracy. He is a political figure who does not want any source of conflict on the territory of the former Soviet Union.

By the same token, I have to mention that Yeltsin's aides think the same way—I am not speaking of the rightist forces which are becoming increasingly active in Russia. I understand, however, the essence of the question asked, and therefore I want to say that we are politicians precisely because we never lose sight of problems and we anticipate certain negative developments. I believe that, under the current circumstances, our appropriate ministries would be able to submit to the leadership of the republic various proposals, suggestions, and solutions so that we do not find ourselves on the threshold of kowtowing, as you mentioned before. Proof of this is also in our pressure for the withdrawal of the airborne regiment in Chisinau and of the 14th Army, which has not been rebuffed—only it has not been stressed that such actions have to take place under civilized conditions. I believe that by no means can one talk of kowtowing by our republic.

In connection with the statements by certain people in the leadership of the new government concerning the main tasks of the republican executive, which is to sign in August the economic accords with the CIS member states and other states, Snegur emphasized: ....It has always been said that relations with the East have to be preserved because we are really integrated in it. At the same time, we will not be able to advance unless we modernize the economy, something that can be achieved through integration in the West by attracting capital investments and businessmen. The effort to sign accords not only with the CIS countries but also with Western ones has to be intensified. Given the current situation—I am thinking of the relations with the CIS countries—one could say that the reorientation toward the West, bearing in mind the needs for modernization, is of primary importance today.

Snegur, U.S. Official Talk on Dniester Settlement

OW2608203892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1835 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The US Ambassador to Moldova, Mary Pendleton, today presented letters of credence to the Moldovan President, Mircea Snegur.

Mircea Snegur highly praised support of the American people and President "in establishing democracy and strengthening Moldova's independence". He pointed out that the settlement of the armed conflict in Dniester entered its second stage, the one of parliamentary discussions. The President also proposed inviting UN permanent observers to the republic to prevent the ceasefire from being broken.

Speaking on the 14th army's withdrawal from Moldova, Mircea Snegur said that this issue was under negotiation which resulted in today's signing a document by the Moldovan and Russian Defence Ministers on an airborne regiment's withdrawal.

Mrs. Pendleton said that President Bush welcomed the agreement between Russia and Moldova on establishing ceasefire in Dniester.

UN Mission Arrives To 'Defuse' Conflict

AU2608143792 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1009 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Text] Chisinau, ROMPRES, 26/8/1992—A Special United Nations mission headed by Gilberto Schitler, high officer of the UN Department for Political Affairs, arrived in the Republic of Moldova.

The members of the mission, sent by the UN secretary general to defuse the conflict, had a first meeting Tuesday, 25 August, with Moldova's Foreign Minister Nicolae Tiu.

After the tour last June, this is a second UN mission visiting Moldova.

Peacekeeping Forces Attacked Near Dubossary

LD2708081392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1314 GMT 26 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow August 26 TASS—Posts of Russian peacekeeping forces near Dubossary came under fire several times in the night from Tuesday [25 August] to Wednesday. Nobody was hurt, OLVIA-PRESS AGENCY reports.

General Lebed, commander of the 14th Russian Army, held a conference on Wednesday. Tiraspol's commandant and heads of law enforcement bodies of the city were invited to the conference. General Lebed expressed concern over the fact that hundreds of automobiles stolen from citizens and enterprises clutter roads near Tiraspol. After getting involved in a road accident, drivers quite often flee from the scene of the accidents. They disregard remarks of traffic inspectors and sometimes threaten them with arms.

As to the illegal possession of arms and ammunition by population of the Dniester, just a few units of arms and 12 grenades have been surrendered to the commandant's office in the past few days. A large number of arms and units of explosives are still in illegal possession and are often used in criminal purposes.

Snegur Gives Independence Day Address

LD2608183692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0740 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Radio address by Moldovan President Mircea Snegur on anniversary of Moldova's independence—live or recorded]

[Text] In August 1991 we took the first step—the most difficult, but the most decisive one as well—from communist totalitarianism, from one-party dictatorship, toward a democratic state governed by law.

Today, one year after independence was proclaimed, the opportunity has arisen to demonstrate to the whole world, and more importantly, to ourselves, that we are able to

translate independence into practical terms, by solving complex problems of the transitional period, and decisively rejecting the heritage of the system that was unable to implement the slogan "All for man, all in man's cause."

The armed conflict in Moldova's eastern areas, which we found ourselves dragged into, turned out to be one of the most acute relapses of totalitarianism and one of the hardest tests for our young democracy. This was a desperate attempt by the red and brown shirts to deprive us of independence, and to liberate—in inverted commas—our land in the same way as before, by force of arms. At the same time, this has become a serious test for Russia's democratic forces as well, for they were lobbied by those who hoped to rescuscitate the empire on the wave of national patriotism.

From the very outset of the conflict, we have resolutely stood for its resolution by political and diplomatic ways. However, when the sword was raised against us, we had to leave the plow and take up arms. The worthiest sons of our people have fulfilled their sacred duty to their motherland. Today we bow our heads before the courage of those who sacrificed their lives for the independence and integrity of the republic. We share the sorrow of mothers, wives and children of those who died. We are doing our utmost to provide assistance to their families and to mitigate their grief.

Cease-fire and separation of the combatants are the first priority. Following which, the second stage comes, equally important: to define the status of the left bank areas, to re-establish constitutional authorities there, and to ensure their operation.

The main thing is that peace has been restored on our land. We feel the support and understanding of the people in implementing our initiative toward solving the conflict at the negotiating table. The world community, the United Nations, the United States and other countries have backed our young state. I should like to state that Moldova, in its present borders, has been recognized by 112 countries, and we have established diplomatic relations with 62 countries. We are grateful to the world community for its political support and humanitarian assistance, and we hope that we will continue in the future to receive economic assistance in overcoming the crisis, which will speed up our integration into Europe.

It is necessary to speed up the introduction of those laws which have already been passed and the implementation of decisions, and at the same time to ensure calm and mutual understanding in society. Herein lies the guarantee of the realization of the strategic line of the republic, whose statehood insistently demands that a new constitution be drawn up. The adoption of this in the very near future—though not before it has been discussed in parliament, to which the relevant draft has already been submitted—is the main contribution toward legitimizing the independence and territorial integrity of Moldova and the fundamental rights of man and the citizen.

In order to attain real democracy, there must be a multiparty system, for which the legislative basis has been created. We welcome the emergence and involvement in socio-political activity of various movements and parties, including opposition movements. We regret only that some of these are still under the influence of the complexes and ambitions of their leaders, who are striving to maintain confrontation in society, in the hope thereby of securing political dividends for themselves.

The ethnic issue is a separate problem. Of 4.35 million inhabitants of the republic, 35 percent are ethnic minorities. I have on many occasions affirmed, and do so now, the independence and sovereignty of Moldova: Its integrity is based on its ethno-democratic unity. A great deal has been done in the republic to ensure such unity. We can state that never, in the entire post-war period, have citizens had so many opportunities to study their mother tongue and to develop their culture as they have today. In the current academic year, the Ukrainian language will be taught as a subject in 60 of the republic's schools; and in other secondary schools, classes have been opened with Ukrainian as the teaching language. Twenty-five thousand young citizens will study the Gagauz language in schools and univisities, and 8,000 will study Bulgarian. Facilities have been arranged for studying Hebrew, and classes have been opened with teaching in Polish and German. The ethnic minorities have their own newspapers and magazines and video libraries, and television and radio broadcasts in their mother tongue have been organized for them. Sixteen cultural societies are operating, including Ukrainian, German, Lithuanian and others, which interact successfully with state structures in the relevant countries.

Our compatriots of Russian nationality also have all rights and opportunities to study their mother tongue and to get involved in the richest of cultures, the Russian culture. Comprising 13 percent of the republic's population, they have at their disposal more than 26 percent of the preschool institutions and an even greater number of schools, high schools and grammar schools, and classes with teaching in Russian.

Last year was marked by the beginning of the economic reforms and the transition to the market. We were fully aware that it was time to move from mere phrases to well-considered anti-crisis programs which enjoyed the people's support. We must distance ourselves from initiatives of a popularist nature, and and also from borrowing from other's models which have nothing in common with the specific traits of our republic. Otherwise, it will be impossible to realize its rich and unique potential.

At the same time, it must be borne in mind that the essence of reform lies in carrying out privatization. The general declaration on human rights, of which our state is a signatory, provides for the right to property, making up the material basis for all other rights and freedoms of the citizen. The implementation of privatization in the near future will be a serious test of endurance for the new government of the republic.

In proclaiming our independence a year ago, we assumed responsibility for the destiny of the people. This has been a difficult year, in the course of which we have become

convinced that the task we have begun can be successfully accomplished only if the entire population is actively involved. From historic dates to current tasks!

Political Differences on Independence Day Noted

LD2708110692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1044 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau August 27 TASS—Moldova is celebrating its independence day on Thursday [26 August], however, the attitude towards the anniversary differs among official authorities and the opposition.

The republican parliament held a festive session today while the opposition Popular Front proposed to declare August 27 the day of mourning.

The proclamation of independence opened "the prospect of spiritual and economic integration with the rest of the country, the stage of preparation for unification with it", speaker Aleksandr Moshanu told the parliament, clearly referring to Romania.

Moldova does not need independence, it has to reunite with Romania, the leaders of the Popular Front called on Wednesday, accusing President Mircea Snegur of betraying the national interests by signing an agreement with Moscow on a peaceful settlement of the Dniester conflict.

The Dniester conflict was a "desperate attempt of red-and-brown forces (Communists and Fascists) to strangle the Moldovan independence", Snegur told parliament on Thursday. The Moscow agreement ensured peace in the region. Now the second stage of the settlement begins - the status of the Dniester region is to be determined, constitutional bodies of power are to be restored there and their normal functioning secured, he added.

A new constitution will be the main contribution to strengthening the independence and territorial integrity of Moldova, the president said, adding the draft had already been submitted to parliament.

Amidst discussions on the significance of independence industrial slump continues to grow in Moldova. The republican industry is in a bad need of fuel and raw materials. A severe drought killed all hopes to harvest a good crop this years. Multi-billion damage was inflicted on the republic by the armed conflict in the Dniester region which also proclaimed independence fearing Moldovan unification with Romania.

Congratulatory Cable Received From Yeltsin

LD2608202392 Chisinau Radio Chisinau Network in Russian 1800 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Excerpts] Today, on the eve of the [Independence Day] holiday, the republic received many congratulatory telegrams. [passage omitted]

An urgent telegram has come from Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation. It reads:

Esteemed Mr President: I am sincerely glad to congratulate the people of Moldova and you personally on the occasion of the national holiday, the Independence Day. I should like to use this occasion to wish peace and national accord to all citizens of friendly Moldova. I am convinced that without this, it is impossible to build a prosperous state and ensure a calm and successful life in the country. I express confidence that Russian-Moldovan cooperation in the political, economic, and cultural spheres will develop progressively for the benefit of our peoples.

[Signed] Boris Yeltsin [passage omitted]

Bread Grain Demand To Be Met by Private Farms

LD2608125192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0730 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Text] In Moldova, following the first stage of sowing, 273,000 tonnes of grain have been sold to the state, including 183,000 tonnes of wheat. However, to satisfy the population's demand for bread grain 400,000 tonnes of wheat will be required. The gap will be bridged through purchases from the population. According to the government's decision, the purchases will be conducted following the same price list as the one for farms. For example, a tonne of valuable variety wheat will earn a private farmer 13,000 rubles.

Sangeli Receives Belarus Envoy for Talks

AU2408174692 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1631 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Text] Chisinau, ROMPRES, 24/8/1992—On August 24 the Republic of Moldova's Prime Minister Andrey Sangeli received Vladimir Sepel, minister of resources of the Belarus Republic, and Valeriu Poia, permanent representative to Moldova of the Council of Ministers of the Belarus Republic. During the interview approach was made of the bilateral economic relations, especially of the Belarus Republic's possibilities to supply the Republic of Moldova with oil products, farm technique, potatoes, and others. It was also convened that a group of experts draft in common a commercial-economic treaty for 1993 which is to be signed during the visit the Republic of Moldova's delegation will pay to Minsk in September, MOLDOVA PRES agency informs.

Group Denied Access to Alleged Weapons Storage

AU2608160292 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1512 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 26/8/1992—Tighina played host to the meeting of the Unified Control Commission devoted especially to analyse the information according to which a large quantity of weapons and armament are in four warehouses of enterprises in the town. The information arrived in Chisinau show that the town executive has not allowed the members of the Unified Control Commission to check the veridicity of those information. The sides wait for the arrival from Moscow of General Zhurbenko, head of the Russian side in that commission.

Kazakhstan

Minister Denies Selling Nuclear Bombs to Iran

LD2608182192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 26 Aug 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] On 21 August some news agencies distributed reports that Kazakhstan had allegedly sold three nuclear bombs to Iran. This is what the Kazakh defense minister thinks about this:

[Begin Nurmagambetov recording] We declare that there are no nuclear weapons on the territory of Kazakhstan. The nuclear weapons were withdrawn back in November 1991. The logical conclusion to be drawn is: How can it sell what does not exist? [end recording]

Military Oath Decreed for Servicemen

LD2608190592 Alma-Ata KAZTAG in Russian 1005 GMT 26 Aug 92

["Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the military oath"]

[Excerpts] In connection with the creation of the armed forces of the sovereign state of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the need for the new intake of servicemen to swear an oath of allegiance to the motherland, I decree that the text of the military oath for servicemen of the armed forces of the Republic of Kazakhstan is confirmed. [passage omitted]

Military Oath (for servicemen of the armed forces of the Republic of Kazakhstan):

I, a citizen of the Republic of Kazakhstan (surname, name and patronymic), on entering the ranks of the armed forces, take the oath and do solemnly swear to my dying breath to be loyal to the people of Kazakhstan and its legally elected president, and to religiously observe the constitution and laws of my sovereign state.

I swear to unquestioningly execute the duties laid upon me and the military regulations and orders of commanders and chiefs, and to steadfastly bear the hardships and privations of military service. I pledge to conscientiously study military affairs, to safeguard military and public property, and to strictly protect military and state secrets.

I vow to be a brave and bold defender of my motherland and of the state interests of independent Kazakhstan.

If I violate the military oath I have taken, then may I receive the severe punishment established by the laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Statistical Data on Population Published

LD2608120992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0822 GMT 26 Aug 92

[By KAZTAG correspondent Gennadiy Lunev for TASS]

[Text] Alma-Ata August 26 TASS—The population of Kazakhstan is ethnically most diverse. Moreover, as compared to other republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), it has the smallest percentage of the indigenous population, the newspaper "KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA" reported on Tuesday [25 August]. The published report of the republic's statistical board notes at the same time the steadily increasing number of Kazakhs. During the periods between the latest population censuses, the number of people of indigenous nationality annually increased on the average by 2.5 per cent in the period from 1970 to 1979, op [as received], by 2.1 per cent in the period between 1980 and 1989, and by 2.7 per cent in the past three years. Hence, the annual increment of the Kazakh population is rather substantial, especially if we bear in mind that the republic's average birth rate has dropped by 4.3 per cent (by 0.9 per cent among Kazakhs).

The total population of Kazakhstan now amounts to 17 million people, including 7,073,000 Kazakhs (42 per cent), 6,275,000 Russians (37 per cent), 890,000 Ukrainians (5.2 per cent), 786,000 Germans (4.7 per cent), more than 356,000 Uzbeks (2.1 per cent), and almost 337,000 Tartars (2 per cent). These six nationalities account for almost 93 per cent of the republic's population.

The process of the concentration of peoples in their national states, which began in the CIS in recent years, was typical also for Kazakhstan in 1991. Thus, in addition to Kazakhs, arriving from other regions of the former union, some 12,300 representatives of the indigenous population have immigrated into the republic from Mongolia. Most of them (80 per cent) have settled in the East-Kazakhstan, Karaganda, Pavlodar and Taldy-Kurgan regions. Due to the broad immigration of Kazakhs, their numbers increased in these regions from 3.3 to 5.6 per cent during 1991, whereas the average increment in the republic as a whole amounted to 2.9 per cent.

As a result of a substantial influx of people of other nationalities, including Russians and Ukrainians, the share of the indigenous population in the East-Kazakhstan, Karaganda and Pavlodar regions had practically remained unchanged at the end of last year and amounted respectively to 28, 19 and 30 per cent. Despite the considerably smaller increase (0.9-1.7 per cent), the Atyrau (former Guryev) and Kzyl-Orda regions remain areas where most of the indigenous population of the republic now live.

According to data furnished by state statistical board, the share of Russians in Kazakhstan dropped from 37.8 to 37 per cent and their absolute growth rate amounting to 30,000. This is to some extent explained by the continuing decrease of the Russian population' natural increment. It is worth noting that there was no substantial emigration of Russians from the republic in 1991.

The total number of Azeris increased substantially (by 24 per cent) in the period from 1989 to 1991. The number of Uzbeks grew during this period by 2.3 per cent, Belarussians and Tartars—by 0.5 per cent.

The number of Germans has decreased substantially (at the beginning of 1992 they accounted for up to 786,000 of the population as against 958,000 at the beginning of 1989). This is explained primarily by the growth of the number of people emigrating to Germany.

The report draws the conclusion that despite noticeable changes in the ethnic structure of the republic's population, these processes are to a definite extent linked with the ongoing socio-economic changes in the republic and are proceeding in a natural way promoted by the state's firm stand on problems of the demographic policy, intended to uphold the interests of all the peoples of Kazakhstan without exception.

Kazakh Trade Unions Urge Improved Reforms

LD2708091792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1620 GMT 26 Aug 92

[By KAZTAG correspondent Vladimir Akiomov for TASS]

[Text] Alma-Ata August 26 TASS—Federation of Kazakh Trade Unions sent an open letter to Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko on Wednesday [26 August] describing deplorable condition of the Kazakh population caused by soaring prices.

Over 70 per cent of the population are living below poverty level, and more than half of the population are not able to buy anything except food, the letter said.

As a result of a decline of the purchasing capacity consumer goods are piled up at storage houses and numerous enterprises go bankrupt increasing the unemployment in the country, the letter pointed out.

To avoid social unrest a reasonable flexible tactics and strategy of carrying out economic reforms should be worked out. Economic reforms should be carried out in line with adequate measures in the social sphere, the letter said.

Kazakh trade union leaders also suggested bringing the wages in line with soaring prices, increasing subsidies to low-income groups, putting an end to the practice of delaying wages, cancelling debts and fully compensating the population's losses caused by inflation.

The danger of social unrest can be averted by taking immediate effective measures, the letter pointed out.

The Federation of Trade Unions demanded to take urgent measures for the social protection of the population in view of the approaching liberalisation of bread and energy prices.

Kazakh trade union leaders also suggested calculating a minimum consumer's budget and minimum wages and increase subsidies to the population.

Kyrgyzstan

Bush Congratulates Akayev on Independence Day

OW2608184292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1745 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Askar Akayev received a congratulatory address from US President George Bush on the occasion of the republic's Independence Day - August 31.

President Bush noted in his telegram to the Kyrgyz president that he takes pride in the progress Kyrgyzstan is making in realizing the ideals of independence and freedom. The people of Kyrgyzstan "under the courageous leadership of President Akayev", the telegram said, began realizing a historic mission - building their democratic future. "The American people are siding with you" in your aspirations for more political and economic freedoms, the US president wrote. He also expressed confidence in further successful development of cooperation between the two countries.

On behalf of his compatriots, President Bush expressed regret over the casualties and damage caused by the recent earthquake. He assured the Kyrgyz government that the American people are taking measures for rendering assistance to the Kyrgyzians in overcoming the consequences of the tragedy that befell them.

Japan, Turkey To Provide Pesticide Aid

LD2608013992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2230 GMT 25 Aug 92

[Text] Kyrgyzstan may be left without its cotton as its plantations are defenseless against web-tick [pautinnyy kleshch]. A correspondent from Kyrgyzstan was informed about this at the Kyrgyzselkhozkhimiya association today. Peasants do not have money to purchase chemical toxic chemicals which used to be distributed from the center. To somehow save the situation, the Turkish republic has allocated about 2 million dollars for the special purpose of buying preventive means against pests and veterinary preparations. There are hopes that Japan will also help. As part of the 10 million dollar credit, it promises to supply herbicides and weed and pest killers. It is remarkable that after establishing diplomatic relations, these countries are the first two countries to respond to the republic's request for help.

'Every Resource' Strained for Quake Victims

PM2608143592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 25 Aug 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast: Video report by K. Sultanbekov, from Kyrgyzia]

[Text] The Kyrgyz Government headquarters set up to deal with the aftermath of the unprecedented earthquake,

is calculating the damage caused by the subterranean elements. To date, 54 people are missing or dead. In three oblasts—Dzhalalabad, Naryn, and Talas Oblasts—16,056 buildings have been damaged, of which some 11,000 are beyond repair. The damage in money terms totals 14 billion rubles.

The republic is straining every resource in trying to cope with providing emergency aid to the population of the affected areas. Tents, food, and industrial goods are being delivered. Humanitarian aid is also arriving from Russia, Kazakhstan, and other CIS republics.

However, the most pressing problem is housing. The destroyed villages are located in mountains where the winters are severe and set in as early as October. They may manage to fly out children to hostels in the capital and oblast centers. However, for the adult population, a grim winter in tents is in store.

Turkmenistan

Gas Pipeline Link With Turkey To Be Built

OW2608114892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1018 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] During Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov's visit to Iran which ended on Tuesday [24 August] an agreement was reached on the construction of a gas pipeline linking Turkmenistan, Iran and Turkey. The project is expected to take about three years to be accomplished, Turkmenistan's Vice-Premier Nazar Suyunov told IF [INTERFAX]. He said that the gas-pipe-line's annual capacity will stand at 28 billion cubic meters.

The communique summing up the results of Niyazov's visit says that the two sides had "substantive consultations" on the construction of the Tedzhen-Sarakhs-Bishkek railway and on joint banking activity. The talks also dealt with ways of broadening contacts between the two countries' citizens and simplifying the procedure of crossing the border.

Niyazov Adopts Communique With Iran, Returns

LD2608192592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Video report from Tehran by correspondent K. Babayev on Turkmenistan President Saparmurad Niyazov's visit to Iran—from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] This is the second visit by the president of Turkmenistan to Iran. This time it was purely a working visit. Consultations were held at the highest level on issues of speeding up the practical implementation of international projects such as the construction of the Sarakhs-Mashhad rail spur and the Iranian part of the Turkemnistan-Iran-Turkey-Europe gas pipeline. If all goes well, construction could be completed in 2.5 to 3 years.

Presidents Niyazov and Rafsanjani also talked about problems connected with joint credit and banking activities. As part of the visit, talks were held between representatives of business circles.

At the end of the visit, the presidents of Turkmenistan and Iran adopted a joint communique in which the leaders of the two neighboring countries once again reaffirmed their dedication to the principles of mutual benefit, equality, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

The Turkmenistan Government delegation returned to Ashgabat late yesterday evening.

Uzbekistan

President Raises Minimum Wage, Pensions

OW2608192092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1749 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Islam Karimov has decreed in commemoration of the first anniversary of the republic's Independence Day, beginning September 1, to raise minimal wages to the employees involved in budget sponsored organizations, pensions and stipends. The minimal size for the wages and pensions in the republic will be set to 1250 rubles a month. Simultaneously, the republic will adopt differentiated pensions depending on the length of working experience and merits of the citizens entitled to them on the basis of the minimal amount established by the president's decree.

Participants and invalids of the Second World War, proceeding from the minimal pensions, will be entitled to a pension amounting to 1600 rubles a month.

The wages of the employees in budget sponsored organizations and agencies will be raised by 25 percent. In the meantime, the decree sets the minimal tax-exempt level of income for the citizens of the republic: 1250 rubles a month.

Students' stipends in higher educational establishments, polytechnic and vocational schools is raised by 1.5 times, with the 50 percent discount for meals in students' canteens preserved.

Supervision over then implementation of this decree has been vested in the Cabinet of Ministers answerable to the president of the republic.

Newspaper Closed for Misleading Public

OW2608175492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1621 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Uzbek State Press Committee banned the newspaper Tadbikor (Businessman) that appeared in two languages. An official letter sent to the newspaper alleges that the paper "misleads the public and seeks to fan popular discontent with the republican leadership's foreign and domestic policies, publishes false and uncorroborated facts in connection with the preparation for the Independence Day." Editor-in-chief Marat Sadvakasov says that the newspaper criticized the "unprecedented pomp and circumstance of the upcoming festivity."

Independence Lessons To Replace Leninism Lessons

LD2408144392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Text] On 1 September classes will open in all schools, vocational training schools, and higher education institutions in Uzbekistan with independence lessons. According to a decree by President Karimov, the independence lessons will replace the lessons in peace and Leninism. The independence lessons will feature the history of Uzbekistan, the republic's labor achievements, and its sovereignty, the NEGA agency reports.

Armenia

President Meets Minsk Conference Chairman

NC2608152792 Yerevan SNARK in English 1457 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Text] Yerevan, 26 August (SNARK)—Levon Ter-Petrosyan, the Armenian president, has met today with Mario Rafaelli, the chairman of the Minsk [conference]. Representing the Minsk group, Mario Rafaelli has suggested for both sides ceasing the fire for the period of 60 days. Ter-Petrosyan has [said] that CSCE has no mechanisms to put the initiative into practice. The Armenian president has again mentioned that Yerevan considers the Karabakh conflict as the case of two states: Azerbaijan and the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh. The states should lead mutual negotiations. Levon Ter-Petrosyan has said that speaking on the ceasing the fire between Armenia and Azerbaijan he meant the Armenian-Azerbaijan border.

Republic Remains 'Neutral' on Abkhazia

NC2608151892 Yerevan SNARK in English 1457 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Text] Yerevan, 25 August [date as received] (SNARK)—Aram Abrahamyan, the deputy press-secretary of the Armenian president, has denied today the information on the formation of the Armenian corps of volunteers to help the Abkhazian side. This information has been spread by some mass media.

The Armenian Government and the Armenian population of Abkhazia want the peaceful solution of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict and remain neutral to it.

Yerevan Radio Updates Nagorno-Karabakh Clashes

NC2608184692 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1330 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Text] Dear listeners, we now present a report on the latest incidents in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and Armenia's border rayons.

Although the world's attention remains focused on the death of peaceful people—including women, children, and elderly—in the violent clashes in Nagorno-Karabakh, the ("United Nations) and international organizations have failed to take the measures required to end the massacre. The leading officials and extreme nationalists in Azerbaijan are maintaining their undeclared war against Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia, widely using the legal and illegal arms they have acquired from the CIS military units in that republic. They did not hesitate to violently bomb several residential areas in Nagorno-Karabakh once again, even when Mario Rafaelli, chairman of the CSCE peace conference on Karabakh, visited on 25 August. Several Azerbaijani aircraft dropped 500-kg highly destructive bombs on Vartashen [words indistinct] in Martunisskiy Rayon. There was substantial damage to the towns. Eight men were killed and 10 wounded in Vartashen, and one person was killed and another was wounded in [placename indistinct].

The Azerbaijani Air Force units feel safe in the NKR's airspace right now. That is why they carry out violent bombing raids on Armenian residential areas and Stepanakert. [passage indistinct]

Azerbaijani military aircraft tried to bomb Stepanakert on 25 August. [passage indistinct]

The combat operations gradually are becoming increasingly intense in Mardakertskiy Rayon. The Armenian self-defense forces evicted the units of the Azerbaijan National Army from Drmbon in the course of the clashes and forced them to withdraw in the direction of Alyshar on 25 August and this morning. The enemy lost a considerable number of troops and military vehicles. The Armenian residential areas around Alyshar currently are being shelled with rockets and artillery. There are exchanges of fire between positions. Armenian fighters control Gyulyatag [words indistinct] Drmbon, and the Mardakert highway.

The freedom fighters in Nagorno-Karabakh continue to maintain their military operations in the direction of Sarsangsk Reservoir. There have been casualties on both sides.

The situation in Armenia's border rayons was peaceful on 25 August. Nevertheless, tension remains. After a day of peace, the Azerbaijani units based in Novo-Saratovka and (Itadara) Kedabekskiy Rayon, which have been converted into military bases, fired on the border areas in Armenia's [word indistinct] Rayon on the same day. The enemy used infantry combat vehicles, tanks, and mortars in its attack. The Armenian self-defense forces returned the fire and forced the enemy to cease firing. There were no Armenian casualties. [passage indistinct]

Nakhichevan Energy Supplies Cut

NC2708102892 Yerevan SNARK in English 0856 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] Yerevan, 27 August (SNARK)—The press-centre of the Council of Ministers has informed the SNARK agency that the Azerbaijani side hasn't fulfilled the conditions of the bilateral agreement on disblockading Armenia concluded during last week. According to the agreement Azerbaijan had to cease the firing of the territory at the Armenian-Azerbaijan border and to supply the trains movement (Baku-Megri-Nakhichevan-Yerevan) from 26th August. The Armenian side renewed the electro-energy supply to the Republic of Azerbaijan from 21st August and finished the repairing on the Megri part of the railway.

Vladimir Manoyan, the head of the press-centre of the Armenian Government, has said that Armenia more than once tried to clear up the situation and the reasons of disruption of the agreement, from Azerbaijan, but the Azerbaijani Government is keeping silence. That's why, according to the conditions of agreement, Armenia has again ceased the supply of electro-energy to the republic of Nakhichevan from 26th August. Vladimir Manoyan has added, "If Azerbaijan was not going to follow the conditions of the agreement, why it was the initiator of the agreement."

Turkish Delegation Arrives in Yerevan 23 Aug

NC2508144592 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1530 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Text] The Armenian Foreign Ministry Press Service reported that a delegation from the Turkish Foreign Ministry and the Turkish Embassy in Moscow arrived in Yerevan yesterday by crossing the border at Markara. The delegation is headed by Bilgin Unan, assistant undersecretary of the Turkish Foreign Ministry.

Unan met with Armenian presidential adviser Zhirayr Libarityan, Economy Minister Grant Bagratyan, and Energy and Fuel Minister Sebuh Tashdzhyan today to discuss matters of mutual interest and cooperation.

The delegation will leave Armenia tomorrow.

Opposition Protests Visit

PM2608115192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Aug 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Sergey Bablumyan report: "Anti-Turkish Action in Yerevan"]

[Text] Yerevan—The Turkish Foreign Ministry delegation which is in Armenia is completing talks with the leadership of the republic's foreign policy department and with other official representatives of Armenia.

Questions of the development of Armenian-Turkish relations in very diverse spheres and, in particular, the question of the establishment of consular relations between the two neighboring countries are being discussed.

The Dashnaktsutyun party, in opposition to the authorities, organized a protest demonstration outside Yerevan's Zvartnots Airport in the course of which it expressed its sharply negative attitude to the presence of Turkish representatives in Armenia. As is known, the Dashnaks consistently oppose any alliances with the Turkish side, demanding that Ankara acknowledge the fact of genocide against the Armenians in 1915.

Press Secretary on Talks

OW2508202792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1801 GMT 25 Aug 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Armenian president's press secretary, Ruben Shugaryan, in commenting on the results of consultations between the head's of state adviser Jirair Liparityan and the Turkish delegation said that the sides had come to the conclusion that their regular consultations ought to be continued for the purpose of establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries in the future. In Mr. Shugaryan's words, the discussions with the representatives of the Turkish foreign ministry were characterized by "informal atmosphere".

In the meantime, the president's press secretary had to state that the sides had different views of the prospects for settling the Karabakh conflict: the Turkish side was giving preference to the thesis of territorial integrity and proposed that Armenia recognize Azerbaijan "in its present-day state", while Armenia was insisting on the priority of the principle of national self-determination.

Nonetheless, Mr. Shugaryan also noted a certain progress in the Turkish-Armenia relations. "We are welcoming this," he observed, noting that a possibility of a peaceful solution of the Karabakh conflict hinges largely on the degree of mutual understanding between Turkey and Armenia.

Mr. Shugaryan also revealed that President Ter-Petrosyan has just sent his letter to British Prime Minister John Major, U.S. President George Bush, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, and French President Francois Mitterrand asking them to convince Azerbaijan to "stop its unprecedented bombardment of peaceful population in Karabakh".

The president's press secretary also commented on the mobilization conducted by the Georgian authorities on the territory of Abkhazia. "The Russians and Armenians living there are observing neutrality", he noted, although he had informations about Armenian nationals listed as part of the opposing armed formations. In his words, "the Armenian government is concerned with the plight of several Armenians apprehended in Georgia". He is regarding their detention as an attempt at "driving a wedge in the relations between the two countries".

Azerbaijan

Foreign Ministry Welcomes Kazakh Mediation

NC2708074992 Baku TURAN in English 0556 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] Baku, 27 August (TURAN)—The Foreign Ministry of Azerbaijan was rather surprised by the offer of the President of Kazakhstan N. Nazarbayev to act as a mediator for the Armenian-Azeri conflict. But still the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan T. Gasymov Together with K. Mekhtyev, head of the Azeri delegation for the Rome peace talks for Nagorno-Karabakh have immediately left for Alma-Ata.

Wishing to escape total confrontation with Armenia, Azerbaijan welcomes any state, offering its mediation services. It is expressed that the Kazakh's Government will be able to accommodate the confronting parties. Azerbaijan is ready to strike a reasonable compromise, stressed the press-centre of the Foreign Ministry.

It could not be ruled out that the Alma-Ata talks will become a rehearsal before the meeting of the Azeri and Armenian leadership.

Azeri observers are sure that it was Yeltsin, initiated the Nazarbayev's invitation to Alma-Ata. As it is known, the Russian leader met with the Armenian President L. Ter-Petrosyan recently. But many are remembering that the Jeleznovodsk agreements, signed under the pressure of the Russian president, have been broken. That is why, it is

supposed that this time the Russian stand would be more firm and both sides feel hard pressure.

Adviser Comments on CSCE Cease-Fire Proposal

NC2608204592 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Text] V. Kulizade, state adviser on foreign affairs, believes that the proposal made by Mario Rafaelli, head of the CSCE Conference on Daglyk Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabakh], for the implementation of a cease-fire agreement in the disputed region as a whole for 60 days is devoid of a concrete mechanism which will enable it to be realized. The proposal is subject to the goodwill of the sides involved.

In a statement to an AZERINFORM correspondent, Kulizade asserted that Azerbaijan is prepared to act with goodwill. He stressed, however, that there is very little hope of Armenia agreeing to comply with the CSCE proposal. Kulizade said: Most probably Armenia will undermine the effort made by the mediators to find a peaceful solution to the problem, as has been the case in the past.

Presidential Office officials have shared Kulizade's views. They recalled that Armenia informed the world twice about its approach to the negotiations question, but shamelessly strengthened its aggression after signing various documents in Zheleznovodsk and Tehran on establishing peace. In fact, it occupied Khodzhaly, Shusha, Lachin, and other residential areas in Azerbaijan and killed many peaceful residents.

Kulizade also said that Azerbaijani leaders are prepared to reconsider a cease-fire between the two sides and to take part in the negotiations process.

Envoy Says UN Statement Agrees With Policy

TA2708111292 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 1000 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] Gasan Gasanov, permanent Azerbaijani representative at the United Nations, has made a statement to ANATOLIA on the recent UN Security Council statement issued on the Karabakh problem. He said that the UN statement is in line with the policies pursued by Azerbaijan. Gasanov added that Azerbaijan supports the efforts exerted by the CSCE on the issue. He further stressed that Armenia wants to exclude the CSCE from and include the United Nations in the process.

Armenia applied to the United Nations at the beginning of the week requesting an urgent Security Council meeting on the Karabakh problem on the grounds that CSCE efforts to secure peace in Karabakh have proved insufficient.

Call-Up Law Amended To Include Students

NC2708080892 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1625 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Text] Baku, 26 August (ASSA-IRADA)—In accordance with the decision adopted today by Milli Mejlis of Azerbaijan, the students of night departments, correspondence-course students of high schools and students of technical schools are liable to call-up. As ASSA-IRADA parliamentary correspondent reported, the right of deferment is received only for the students and post-graduates of day department.

Army Controls Lachinskiy Corridor

LD2708094992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0850 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Report by AZERINFORM-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Baku, 27 Aug—As a result of Armenia's annexation of Azerbaijan's Lachinskiy and Shushinskiy Rayons, says a statement by the Azerbaijani president's press service distributed today, the artificial joining of the territories of the former Nagorno-Karabakh autonomous region and Armenia have taken place. Enemy ammunition, equipment, and personnel are being sent in to Nagorno-Karabakh via the so-called "humanitarian" Lachinskiy corridor. At present, the "Lachinskiy corridor" is completely controlled by units of the Azeri National Army.

The statement stresses that the Azeri Defense Ministry has given the order for ambulances and freight comprising food and other humanitarian aid not to be fired upon. Only military targets are being destroyed, including in Khankendi [Stepanakert]. The Armenian Army Command could not have failed to be aware of the possibility of these attacks. The location of civilian residents near these targets is of an entirely deliberate nature, the statement by the Press Service of the president points out.

Armenian Headquarters in Chldran Destroyed

NC2608202492 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Text] The Azerbaijan Defense Ministry's Analytical Information Center has reported the following:

The clashes between the Azerbaijan Armed Forces and the Armenian expeditionary corps units during the past two days mainly have been aimed at gaining positions. As in the past, our Army units maintain their control over positions that have been taken from the Armenians.

Azerbaijan National Army [ANA] fighters intensively shelled the Armenian positions in (Arsinogomer), (Vankhlo), and [placename indistinct] with artillery and destroyed the enemy headquarters in Chldran today.

Regardless of the casualties it has suffered up to now, the enemy continues to try to redeem its defeats in the northern part of Karabakh. A large enemy force supported by military vehicles has been observed assembling in that region.

Akhchay, Seidlyar, and Kazanchi in Zangelanskiy Rayon were fired on from Armenia's Kapanskiy Rayon. Kedabekskiy Rayon's border areas were fired on from Krasnoselskiy Rayon, and (Gorazolu) and Fizuli in Fizulinskiy Rayon were fired on from the Armenian positions in Yukhary Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabakh] with various types of arms last night. Kubatlinskiy Rayon also was fired

on from Armenia with various types of arms today. The ANA units returned fire and destroyed an enemy tank and artillery piece.

The situation in Kazakhskiy, Tauzskiy, and Akstafa Rayons and in Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic has been relatively stable.

Elchibey Assigns Ministries To Pursue Deserters

OW2608182292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1744 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Abulfaz Elchibey has decreed that the republic's defense ministry, interior ministry, and procurator's office within a week's time should submit their "plans of action re disclosing cases of evasion of military service". The presidential decree requires that all materials regarding such cases be forwarded to the territorial procurator's offices.

President Elchibey has assigned the republic's procurator's office to prosecute the officials who "condone the evasion of military service in Azerbaijan's armed forces". The ministry of justice was instructed to exercise supervision over "timely" hearings of such criminal cases by the republic's courts. Coordination of efforts for preventing cases of evasion of conscription throughout the country has been vested in territorial defense headquarters.

A spokesman for the president's press center remarked that the presidential decree is spearheaded mainly against cases of desertions.

Georgia

Further Reportage on Abkhaz Fighting, Situation

Moscow, Tbilisi Hold 'Intensive Talks'

LD2608130192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1224 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Report by unidentified station correspondent from Batumi]

[Text] The storming of Gudauta by Georgian Government troops scheduled for 1300 has not yet begun. At the present time, Eduard Shevardnadze is making last-minute efforts to settle the issue through peaceful means. Intensive talks are under way between Moscow and Tbilisi. Of course, they are being kept strictly secret; however, according to information that I now have, one can already say confidently that Russia confirms the territorial integrity of Georgia and does not recognize the constitution adopted by the Abkhaz deputies.

In the view of Lieutenant General Beppayev, deputy commander of the Transcaucasus Military District, armed clashes will inevitably result in hundreds of deaths. The situation in Sukhumi is being controlled by forces of the Georgian Internal Affairs Ministry. All approaches to the town are being guarded by the National Guard. Last night, in response to an appeal by the Confederation of Highland Peoples—which supports Ardzinba—800 persons of Chechen origin crossed the Georgian border. Many of them had firearms.

The main crossing point is the Ritsa nature reserve. Now, around 500 Chechens have forced their way into Gudauta and 300 into Pitsunda. The same night, a detachment of volunteers from Adygeya reached Gagra where there was a battle with Georgian Government troops. About 20 Adygeys were killed, and prisoners were taken. That is the news to date.

Abkhaz Leader Invited to Meeting

LD2608132792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1308 GMT 26 Aug 92

[By SAKINFORM-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Tbilisi, 26 Aug—Georgian State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze has again invited Abkhaz Supreme Soviet Chairman Vladislav Ardzinba to a meeting in Tbilisi. He made a statement on this today, in which he noted that the Abkhaz leader would be provided with the necessary protection, together with every guarantee for his safety.

Eduard Shevardnadze has repeatedly confirmed the recommendation previously made by the State Council, to the effect that a session of the Abkhaz Autonomous Republic Supreme Soviet be called in Sukhumi (western Georgia) as soon as possible, with the aim of achieving an immediate cessation to the bloodshed and a political settlement of the conflict.

Russian Delegation Arrives on Mission

LD2608143592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1428 GMT 26 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow August 26 TASS—A group of Russian parliamentarians flew from Moscow to Tbilisi today. The group is being led on a peacemaking mission to Georgia by Chairman of the Subcommittee for International Security and Intelligence Yevgeniy Kozhokin.

Other members of the mission are Mikhail Arutyunov, Gennadiy Gorelov, Valentina Linkova and Rasul Mikhailov.

Upon arrival in Tbilisi, mission members met Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, ITAR-TASS was told at the Russian parliament's press centre.

Fighting Roundup

LD2608161592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1448 GMT 26 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 26 August—According to a statement from the press service of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet from Gudauta, battles raged in Gagra last night, not at the approaches to the town, but in its streets. They began after

localized gun battles took place. Abkhazian irregulars destroyed two enemy infantry fighting vehicles and one armored personnel carrier. Four irregulars died and 13 were wounded. Two of them are in serious condition.

Abkhazian guerrillas carried out a combat operation at the Sukhumi station last night and put two tanks of the Georgian national guard out of action.

According to the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet press service, a similar operation was simultaneously carried out in the village of Nizhnyaya Eshera, near Sukhumi.

Quoting a source in Moscow, the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet press service has reported that the Russian Red Cross Society is ready to dispatch a consignment of medicines and food to Gudauta but the Georgian side has banned deliveries of food.

According to the Georgian State Council press center, bloody battles raged today at the approaches to the town of Gagra which Abkhazian troops tried to take by storm; these numbered 1,500, of predominantly North Caucasian nationalities.

According to initial data, more than 50 people were killed and about 100 injured among the attackers. One man was killed and 15 wounded on the Georgian side.

Armed clashes, although on a smaller scale, also took place today in the village of Nizhnyaya Eshera; five Abkhazians were killed.

Also today, according to the Georgian side, an armed group numbering 50 attacked the Sukhumi railway station. The Georgian national guardsmen who were guarding the station repelled the attack. Three men among the attackers died; two of them were Adygeys and the other a Chechen.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned at the Georgian State Council press center that saboteurs blew up a railway bridge near the station of Tamysh, north of Sukhumi. The other day Sukhumi police detained two citizens of Armenian nationality who had a machinegun and ammunition in their car.

A press release by the Georgian State Council press center was circulated in Tbilisi today. It says: "The Abkhazian conflict can turn into a long and bloody war into which not only Georgia but the whole region will be drawn, since a large number of guerrillas from Chechenya and Adygeya, who have secretly penetrated Georgian territory, are already fighting on the Abkhazian side. The Georgian side regards the development of this local conflict toward internationalization as an attempt at intervention in Georgia, and signs of it are already in evidence."

Many of the North Caucasians detained in Gagra, Sukhumi, and the village of Tamysh confirm, according to the Georgian State Council press center, that "they had penetrated Abkhazian territory and stayed there even before the conflict started."

Ardzinba Willing To Fight

OW2608165992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1618 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking at a press-conference in Gudauta on Wednesday [26 August], Chairman of the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet Vladislav Ardzinba described postponing talks between Yeltsin and Shevardnadze from the original date, August 28, to September 3 as a possible attempt by Tbilisi to resolve the Abkhaz imbroglio by force. He expressed concern that though calling for talks, Georgia is intensifying its military presence in Abkhazia.

According to Ardzinba, the August 25 ultimatum by the Georgian force commander in Abkhasia Georgiy Karkarashvili could not have been endorsed by the Georgian State Council. The fact that the State Council troops did not attack when the Abkhaz side did not meet the deadline (13:00, August 26) does not mean, however, that a Georgian attack cannot come in the coming days.

Asked whether the Abkhaz fighters can resist Georgian attacks should they attempt to wrest the Abkhaz-controlled territory from Eshery to Pitsunda from the Abkhaz fighters, Ardzinba said that "we would defend the country to the bitter end...in case of need we'll take to the mountains and fight a guerrilla war."

Asked to comment on Yeltsin's statement that he sought to safeguard peace and that he guaranteed Georgia's territorial integrity, Ardzinba said he was not opposed to Georgian territorial integrity. But Abkhazia and Georgia are two different states representing two different nations, said he.

According to the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet press-service, a Russian Supreme Soviet delegation left for Tbilisi Wednesday to talk with the Georgian leaders on the situation in Abkhazia at the invitation of Georgian State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze.

Faction Criticizes Separatists' Policies

OW2608192892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1834 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Democratic Abkhazia faction of the Abkhazian Parliament announced that the adventuristic policies of the Abkhazian seperatist government and circles close to Mr. Ardzinba led to civil war. The statement passed by the faction at a session Wednesday [26 August] tates that "rather than to end the senseless bloodshed and begin negotiations to save the people from catastrophe, Mr. Ardzinba and his close circles took care to save their own posts". The authors of the statement charge the Abkhazian government with attempting to pull foreign forces into the war in order to transform it into a general Caucasian war. "The so-called Confederation of Mountain Peoples played a disastrous role in the conflict, declaring war on an independent country, the Republic of Georgia", the document states.

The deputies called upon the peoples and governments of the Northern Caucausus republics to realize the impending danger of "crossing the adventurism of this so-called Confederation", and to undertake active political steps for the peaceful regulation of the conflict in Abkhazia.

Shevardnadze Writes Yeltsin

OW2608192592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1833 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In answer to Russian President Boris Yeltin's plea to the governments of Georgia and Abkhazia to end the fighing and bring peace to the area, Georgian State Committee Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze sent a letter to the Russian head of state. The letter states in part that all efforts by Georgia to resolve the conflict through political means received no response from the Abkhazian government.

The situation has grown more complicated after the demarche of the Confederation of Caucasian Mountain People, in result of which attention has been focused in Abkhazia on the volunteers from the northern Caucasus. They are conducting military operations together with the Abkhazian seperatists, they have taken Pitsunda, they attack transport caravans, last night attacked a national army position in the city of Gagra and simultaneously attacked a railroad station near Sukhumi.

All of this, the letter states, makes it more difficult to end the fighting. Eduard Shevardnadze thanked Boris Yeltsin for his assurance of Russia's support for the Georgian government's peace-keeping forces. He expressed his certainty that their meeting set for September 3 of this year will serve the interests of peace in Abkhazia and southern regions of Russia.

Georgia Accused of Using 'Grads'

LD2708081592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0600 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] The press service of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet has accused the Georgian side of using "Grad" installations against the civilian population. The press service claims that more and more countries are taking Abkhazia's side. For instance, Saudi Arabia has expressed its growing concern at the situation in the autonomous republic and in the region as a whole.

A meeting has taken place in Istanbul between representatives of Caucasian cultural centers in Turkey and Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel, who has promised to speak to Shevardnadze on the subject of ending the aggression against Abkhazia. In addition to this, numerous meetings of the Abkhazian diaspora have been held in Turkey as a sign of solidarity with their fellow countrymen ("and offering) assistance to Abkhazia.

Greek Government Concerned Over Events

LD2708083592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0735 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Malyshev]

[Text] Athens August 27 TASS—The Greek Government has expressed serious concern over the developments in Abkhazia.

The Greek Foreign Ministry issued a statement here today saying that Greece is worried over the situation in this part of the Georgian republic and the negative consequences the present crisis is fraught with for the Greek community that resides there.

"We have already stated this to the Georgian authorities and received assuarances that they exert every effort to protect ethnic Greeks. At the same time, the Greek Government is exploring an opportunity to receive a limited number of ethnic Greeks, mostly children," the statement says.

"Greece supports maintaining the territorial integrity of the Georgian republic and advocates a peace settlement of the conflict," the statement emphasises.

Assassination of Greek Leader Denied

LD2708094192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1859 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Text] Moscow August 26 TASS—A press centre of the Georgian Permanent Mission in Moscow denied allegations which appeared in the mass media that the leader of Greek Cultural Society in Abkhazia Mr. Anastasiadi had been assassinated by national guards of the Georgian State Council.

The mission declared with reference to a leader of the "Democratic Abkhazia" parliamentary group, T. Nadareishviliy, that Mr. Anastasiadi is in good health and is no longer chairman of the society.

Government Invites CSCE Observers

LD2708083692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0829 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 27 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—Georgia invited CSCE observers for a fact-finding mission in Abkhazia on Thursday [27 August].

The Georgian Government "is interested and is ready to receive a mission of CSCE observers which would be provided with full and all-round information on Abkhazian developments," Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksander Chikvaydze said in a message to the chairman of the CSCE Council of Ministers, Josef Moravcik.

Ardzinba: Russians 'Should Be Tougher'

PM2708085392 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 27 Aug 92 p 1

[Telephone interview with Abkhaz Supreme Soviet Chairman Vladislav Ardzinba by L. Krutakov; place and date not given: "V. Ardzinba's Evening Telephone Call"]

[Text] [Krutakov] Vladislav Grigoryevich, how do you view the present situation in Abkhazia?

[Ardzinba] The confrontation is taking another turn. "Grad" launchers have been brought up to the Gumista River and preparations are under way to storm Gudauta.

During my latest telephone conversation with Shevardnadze, I asked why talks with Russia are being prepared at the same time as an assault. If this is not an attempt to resolve the problem of Abkhazia before the talks start, then what is it?

[Krutakov] What else did you talk about during your conversation with Shevardnadze?

[Ardzinba] The withdrawal of the Georgian troops and the start of talks in a neutral state.

[Krutakov] Is the troop withdrawal an indispensable condition?

[Ardzinba] If any troop formations—be they Georgian Guards or Internal Troops—are present, stability will not come to Abkhazia.

[Krutakov] What is your opinion of Russia's role?

[Ardzinba] The stance espoused by a member of the Security Council should be tougher. It is all happening on Russia's southern borders, and we are still pressing for quadripartite talks (involving Russia, Georgia, Abkhazia, and the North Caucasus republics) rather than Russian-Georgian talks. However, if Yeltsin meets with me after Shevardnadze, that would suit us.

[Krutakov] Vladislav Grigoryevich, now for the most painful issue....

[Ardzinba] The fact that international organizations are keeping quiet. The International Red Cross is in Sukhumi, but for some reason its representatives have not been to Gudauta. Agreement must be reached immediately on exchanging prisoners, wounded, and the bodies of the dead. The Georgian Guards are not allowing us to pick up our militiamen on the battlefield now.

Shevardnadze on Upcoming Yeltsin Meeting

LD2708090792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0846 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi August 27 TASS—Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze believes his coming meeting with the Russian president devoted to the developments in Abkhazia will be successful.

"I am sure that our meeting on September 3 will help restore peace in Abkhazia and in the southern regions of Russia", Shevardnadze said on Thursday [27 August] in his reply to Yeltsin's appeal to the leaderships of Georgia and Abkhazia.

The Georgian leader regretted the failure of all previous attempts of the State Council to normalise the situation in Abkhazia by political means. "The situation is aggravated by armed units sent to our territory by the so-called confederation of Caucasian highlanders", he said in his message sent to Yeltsin.

Peacekeeper Says S. Ossetia Under Control

LD2708103192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1002 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz August 27 TASS—The situation in a 15-kilometer disengagement corridor and all over South Ossetia is fully under the control of Russian, Georgian and Ossetian battalions, Major-General Stanislav Suanov, representative of the mixed peace-keeping force command, told the ITAR-TASS news agency here.

The re-deployment of the 1,500-strong contingent, carried out this week, helped to station posts in the most critical areas and to suppress violations of the armistice.

The peace-keeping force, ensuring all preventive measures in the region, helps the population to guard roads, bridges, vital facilities and to drive automobile columns with refugees and humanitarian aid.

Engineers defused over 600 explosives in the Tskhinvali and Znauriy districts where, it is believed, over 1,000 mines were planted.

The mixed peace-keeping force has fully fulfilled its mission in the Tskhinvali zone spelled out by the Dagomys quadripartite agreement, Suanov stressed. Nevertheless, it is too early to withdraw it from the area.

The political situation in the Caucasian area is now very explosive. Therefore, the troops are the only containing force guaranteeing the implementation of the second stage of the peace-keeping mission: The restoration of all important economic structures, the return of refugees and the stage-by-stage solution of the question on the political status of South Ossetia.

South Ossetia, an autonomous republic in Georgia, proclaimed its independence earlier this year and decided to re-unite with North Ossetia, an autonomous republic in the Russian Federation.

Boris Yeltsin, Eduard Shevardnadze and the leaders of the North and South Ossetian people met in Dagomys (a resort on the Black Sea) and agreed to dispatch a peace-keeping force to South Ossetia to settle the Georgian-Ossetian conflict which flared up nearly a year ago.

The mixed peace-keeping force was dispatched to South Ossetia in mid-July.

According to information from the South Ossetian Parliament and reports by the North Ossetian Security Ministry, the situation was calm in the Tskhinvali zone. There were no disquieting reports from observation posts situated on the Dzhava-Tskhinvali highway running through Georgian and Ossetian villages.

Work is underway in Tskhinvali, the capital city of South Ossetia, to restore industrial enterprises, the transportation system, housing and services establishments. All housing neighbourhoods in the city are supplied with electricity, water and gas. The South Ossetian leaders spare

no efforts to prepare schools and the local teachers' training institute for the academic year starting on September 1.

Vladikavkaz was the venue for a meeting of North and South Ossetian scholars, men of arts and letters on Thursday. They discussed the further stabilisation of the situation in the Tskhinvali zone and their own role in these efforts.

Meeting participants adopted a statement addressed to the leaders of Russia, Georgia, Abkhazia, regions and republics of the Northern Caucasus. It says that the events in Abkhazia can spread to the entire North Caucasian region and provoke a civil war in Russia's south.

The statement calls for an immediate political settlement of the military conflict in Abkhazia and the withdrawal of Georgian troops from its territory.

Estonia

Baltic Military Cooperation Said Insufficient

LD2708081892 Tallinn Radio Estonia in English 1520 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Text] The present military cooperation between the Baltic states is not sufficient. The Estonian Deputy Defense Minister, Toomas Puura, told the BALTIC NEWS SERVICE that military departments of the three Baltic states have no common plan in case there would arise a military danger on the borders from the East. On the other hand, the representatives of the Defense Ministries and general staffs had discussed possible cooperation and coordinated efforts to produce military technology at its meetings. According to Mr. Puura this calls for a range of meetings regularly. Mr. Puura also affirmed that according to [indistinct word] plans the Defense Forces of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania do not intend to carry out joint maneuvers.

Defense Minister, Latvian Counterpart Hold Talks

OW2608194392 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1817 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Estonian Defense Minister Ulo Uluots met in Riga August 25 with his Latvian counterpart Talavs Jundzis in order to address prospects for cooperation of the armed forces of the two countries in the areas of logistics and finance.

In an interview for the BALTFAX correspondent, following his return to Tallinn, the Estonian defense minister assured him that their discussions "did not involve any political issues or possibilities of a military alliance".

Government Frustrated With Ambassador to Finland

OW2608194192 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1818 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Estonian government published a statement Wednesday [26 August] with the expression of "serious frustration" due to the assertions made in Helsinki by the Estonian Ambassador to Finland, Lennart Meri, who is also running for the republic's presidential office.

At a press conference on Tuesdays, Mr Meri averred that the decision of the Estonian Government to set a 12-mile sea border was too "precipitous". In his opinion, prior to making such a decision, the Estonian Government should have had consultations with the neighbouring states, Finland, in particular. In addition, Mr Meri alleged that in the next five years, Estonia would be unable to ensure coast guard, customs, environmental and other kinds of control of this zone.

"The assertions made by Lennart Meri," the Estonian Government statement reads, "is not befitting his diplomatic office and contains classified information which should not have been made public". The Estonian Government also noted that it did conduct consultations with Finnish representatives prior to making a decision in regard to the off-shore zone.

"Lennart Meri should know the difference between running for president and acting as a plenipotentiary of the Estonian Republic," the government statement emphasizes.

Lithuania

Patrol Ship To Be Purchased From Russia

LD2608224792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 26 Aug 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Lithuanian Defense Minister Butkevicius has confirmed reports which appeared earlier that talks are underway with the Baltic Navy Command on the republic purchasing a military patrol escort ship. Butkevicius said, in particular, that in spite of the fact that Russia had proposed that Lithuania acquire several ships, the republic's military ministry had decided only on one. The patrol escort ship is planned to be used for patrolling in the frontier-zone waters and for guarding the coast. Lithuania will pay in rubles, not hard currency, for it.

Nuclear Fuel Prices Agreed With Russians

LD2608223392 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1400 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Text] The BNS agency reports that in the third quarter of this year the Ignalina nuclear power station will have to pay about 3 million rubles [R] for each case of nuclear fuel. This is 25 percent less than demanded by Russian suppliers.

According to the station's financial director, Anatoliy Lobankov, this is no small victory. In the fourth quarter the suppliers will demand over R5 million per case, but the station's heads hope to strike a bargain this time, too. Russian suppliers mention a different price—over $12,000 dollars per case. According to Lobankov, this is one possible settlement. It could be used if the governments of Lithuania and Russia agree to settle accounts in hard currency or in rubles according to the dollar-ruble exchange rate fixed by the Russian Bank.

The above-mentioned sum in dollars is only half the world price of this fuel, but, according to Deputy Power Engineering Minister Saulius Kutas, this would be a very great problem for Lithuania. In his opinion, in order to successfully cooperate with the West, we should go over to world prices as soon as possible.

The Ignalina nuclear power station has to pay the new price for the cases beginning on 18 August but, according to Lobankov, fuel will not be sent to Lithuania until it is paid for. The power station has no such money and, of course, expects assistance from the government. At present the station has sufficient cases for another three months. The Ignalina power station uses 1,000 cases per year.

Parliament Speaker Views Fighting in Georgia

OW2608194892 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1817 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Speaker of Lithuania's Parliament, Vytautas Landsbergis, expressed worry in connection with continuing violence in Georgia leading to more victims and aggravating international tensions.

In a statement published today, the Speaker supported winning an immediate and unconditional ceasefire and returning all armed forces to their locations. Only then, in Vytautas Landsbergis' opinion, Georgia's political forces "will be able to commit themselves not to resort to use of force against each other, and thus create conditions for negotiations to find a peaceful and democratic solution of existing problems".

"This fire throughout the Caucasus does not promise anything good for anyone", according to Vytautas Landsbergis.

German Experts Help Organize Transport

LD2508212692 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1800 GMT 25 Aug 92

[Text] It was agreed during the negotiations at the end of July in the Lithuanian Transport Ministry with Wolfgang Grobel, parliamentary state secretary of the German Transport Ministry, that Germany would render assistance to our transport. As a result of those negotiations and a meeting with Lithuanian Transport Minister Jonas Birziskis, Dr [words indistinct], an expert of the German Transport Ministry, is starting his work in Lithuania. He will examine the system of the Lithuania transport department and the structure of the Ministry of Transport, and will submit his conclusions and proposals.

Another group of three German experts, which is starting work in Lithuania today, will analyse the state of our railways and prepare a program for the stabilization of Lithuanian railways and their inclusion into the European railway system.

Energy Costs To Increase Required Income Levels

PM2608144992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Aug 92 Morning Edition p 1

[NEGA report under the "From Our Correspondents and News Agencies" rubric: "Lithuania Cannot Afford New Energy Prices"]

[Text] Lithuania has run aground as a result of the present prices of energy resources, Republic Prime Minister Aleksandras Abisala has admitted in an interview on Lithuanian radio.

Plans to increase tariffs and service costs are currently being examined. Under one of these plans it will cost at least 2,100 rubles [R] a month to maintain a two-room apartment with an area of 50 square meters. According to Ministry of Power Engineering estimates, in that event the minimum living wage in Lithuania must equal R5,000.

Public Opinion Poll on Parliamentary Elections

LD2708091192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1716 GMT 26 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladlas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius August 26 TASS—A public opinion poll was held in Vilnius by a sociology department of the Vilnius University devoted to the parliamentary elections scheduled for October 25, 1992. The results of the poll were published by the "RESPUBLIKA" newspaper on Wednesday [26 August].

A total of 49 per cent of respondents said that people with high moral and business qualities stand the best chance of being elected to the parliament.

Over 40 per cent of respondents believe parliamentary candidates should give priority to the problem of introduction of Lithuanian national currency (litas), combatting soaring prices (45 per cent of respondents), corruption and bribery in governing bodies (41 per cent) and the withdrawal of Russian troops from Lithuania (37 per cent).

If presidential elections were held, the present Lithuanian Parliamentary Speaker Vytautas Landsbergis was nominated as the most popular out of 100 prominent Lithuanian politicians (29 per cent). He is followed by Algirdas Brazauskas, leader of the Lithuanian Workers' Democratic Party (19 per cent).